

7 January 2021

Dear parent or carer

COVID-19 testing for Students

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those students who are currently in school to be tested. We need consent to conduct the test. Please complete the Google Form in the link below by **Monday 11 January** so that we can prepare for your child's test.

[COVID-19 LATERAL FLOW TEST CONSENT FORM](#)

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all our students who are currently in school (those of key workers and vulnerable students) next week. There will be two tests carried out three days apart once only.

Should someone test positive, any staff member or student who has come into contact with the positive case will be able to remain in school if they are tested daily for seven days, rather than have to self-isolate for 10 days at home.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. A valid email address and mobile number must be provided on the consent form as this is how parents will receive notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

FAQs

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately and will need to be collected from school as soon as possible. We will provide them with a further 'PCR test' which they will need to take when they get home to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

We will notify the student that they are a close contact. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for 7 days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for students with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

NEIL RODGERS
Executive Headteacher