



09 February 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff / Pupils

Dear Parent/Carer,

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.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help you and other staff members to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Initial return to term testing

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school and college age pupils when they are in school. For those pupils attending the provision in school this will start as soon as possible

Further testing

In addition, school staff will be tested weekly for the remainder of spring term. Any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school will be asked to isolate in line with public health guidelines.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow device tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the pupil of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

What if someone tests positive?

If someone tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they will be informed immediately by school and the individual will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance, and contact tracing will commence. Anyone that has been identified as a close contact of a person who has received a positive LFD test result will be asked to isolate in line with public health guidelines.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of participants may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, participants who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Participants 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 staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. They will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

What if they develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If anyone develops symptoms at any time (such as 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 staff and pupils throughout, but please contact Mr Ostmeier if you have any questions

Yours faithfully,



Mrs H Murden
Headteacher