



35745/LV/JOH  
09/02/2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students**

Dear Parents / Carers

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 and to support us to plan for this when the students return to 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, and hopefully ensure a safer environment for your children and for staff.

For a number of weeks we have been successfully testing all those students who attend our school provision for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students and staff who are on site. This has gone very smoothly and we are pleased that we had the opportunity to run this on a small scale to ensure clear systems and controls, and to ensure that our students felt safe and comfortable in being supported to conduct these tests.

When the government announces the reopening of schools, we will be looking to test all staff and students before they return to school.

As a result, we are asking you to complete the online consent form linked below, so that we can prepare and ensure that we have adequate staffing to carry out reliable testing. To enable us to secure the required staffing to test such large numbers of students and staff, we would appreciate it if you could return the form below by Friday 12th February to allow us to plan and prepare.

<https://forms.gle/vKweV9qnAhUvi3NM8>

Please find linked below the privacy statement which explains how the data collected for testing purposes will be stored and used.

<https://nowerhill.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/document/Privacy-Notice-NHHS-testing.pdf?t=1612870846>

### **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. Results take around half an hour from testing and the school will inform the student and parent / carer if there is a positive test result. The student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system if they are of the required age and registered. Tests are free of charge.



### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by us, and will need to self-isolate following the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. All other members of the household will also need to self-isolate.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils will be informed of negative tests in the same way as described above.

### **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. They will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the day of contact but their household will not need to self-isolate.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people 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, as always, support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

**LOUISE VODEN**  
Headteacher