
NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Y8 students – September 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

You may have heard that testing for those without Coronavirus symptoms will need to be completed in schools when students return after the summer break, in a very similar process to when schools reopened following lockdown. These tests will be done using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices', results are available within 15 minutes and the tests that we have been provided with only require a swab to be taken from each nostril. The test centre will be set up in the same way that it was in March and similar fully trained staff will carry out the processing of the tests. I enclose a leaflet with further information.

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. We are therefore strongly encouraging all students returning to school in September to be tested.

We will be operating a staggered testing timetable for students to ensure that all students will be able to begin learning on 6th September, the first day of term. All students will be offered 2 onsite tests spaced 3-5 days apart on their return. Once students have been tested twice at school, they will be provided with home tests for regular testing until the end of September in the first instance. **All students and staff will be required to wear a face mask for the duration of the time they are in the test centre for both their tests. Please ensure all students arrive at the Academy on their test days with a face mask.**

We have planned for Year 8 students to complete the first of these tests on the morning of 6th September 2021 as the students return to the academy. For this first day only, all Year 8 students must arrive and go immediately to the eco playground where staff will be waiting to welcome them. The students will then be released in groups to the Drama Studio to be tested. On completion of their first test, students will be kept socially distanced until a negative test result is confirmed (15 minutes) and will then go to their normal lessons. Year 8 students will complete their second test in the academy on 10th September 2021.

If your child was tested in the previous on-site testing in March we already hold a consent form and you therefore do not need to complete any further paperwork. If you did not consent previously your child will not be tested. If you now wish your child to be tested as part of this round of testing, **please complete the [CONSENT FORM](#) here**. To assist with planning, we request that consent forms are completed by **Friday 6th August 2021**.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a confirmatory PCR test ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two

days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the pupil can stop self-isolating and return to school. Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the pupil should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

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 staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will need to follow the Government guidance on self-isolation.

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>.

What is my child has tested positive for Covid-19 recently?

Your child should not do a LFD test for 90 days after they received their positive result. During the registration process for onsite testing on their first test day, they will be asked this question, please ensure they answer yes and are aware of the date of the positive test.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mrs N Williams
Associate Executive Principal