

8th July 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and [Students/Pupils]

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms in school will recommence in September. With students taking two of the new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices' in school. 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 and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all secondary school students as they return to school, with completing home tests in preparation for the new academic year.

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 possibly the throat. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed via the contact email supplied.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil 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 (after their 2nd test) 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 be informed instead.

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

If the student is less than 18 years and 4 months, they will be advised to take a PCR test. Staff members and students over 18 years and 4 months will be required to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance if they have not received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

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 support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by emailing admin@woodgreenacademy.co.uk

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Topham', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Topham
Headteacher