

23rd February 2021

NHS Test and Trace: Asymptomatic 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.

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. The Government is therefore strongly encouraging those returning to Sixth Form to be tested.

Plan for testing

Following the Government's announcement of schools and colleges reopening on 8th March 2021, and in line with current guidance, we will be offering these tests to students. Students who chose to take part in Lateral Flow Testing will need to complete 3 tests, no more than 3 – 5 days apart, during the first two weeks of term. Following the three tests on site, students will be given testing kits to carry out twice weekly testing at home, more details will be provided on home testing when the Sixth Form reopens. Please note in order to carry out the home tests students will have to have completed the three tests on site. All tests are free of charge.

Registering and giving consent for a test

To register a student for a lateral flow test and to **consent** to the test please click [here](#)

The Sixth Form will then invite the students in for 3 tests. They will be supported by staff to complete the registration process.

How the tests work

The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat and those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The Sixth Form will also inform the students of a positive test result and where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. They will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

Students will need to have a negative test result, after their first test in order to continue attending.

.

What if they test positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

[If you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

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, students who test negative will be able to stay in Sixth Form and resume their activities as normal. They 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 the Sixth Form who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the Sixth Form and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if they develop symptoms?

This testing programme at the Sixth Form is for people with no symptoms. If they develop 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 students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by contacting 0114 262 5757.

Yours faithfully,

Mo Nisbet

Principal