

Ref: JT/TTC19Testing

16th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils from September 2021

The latest government guidance for schools strongly encourages all pupils to undertake two Lateral Flow Tests on site, with the first negative result confirmed prior to returning to face to face teaching.

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 and request that consent is given via the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/BMrhZXZ5mq>

Those pupils with consent for Lateral Flow Testing will be tested at school on Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September, with a 2nd test being carried out the following week.

Following the 2nd test, all pupils will be supplied with test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Parents must report their result to NHS Test and Trace. Parents should also inform school of the result via the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/HsVH1BpzHa>

If no consent for Lateral Flow Testing has been given, your son will return on the day his whole year group returns on Monday 6th September.

The allocated time for your son's first test will be sent direct to you via text. Pupils are required to wear full school uniform when attending the site for their test.

Testing and return schedule is as follows:

Thursday 2 nd September	Onsite testing for Y7 & Y9
Friday 3 rd September	Onsite testing for Y8, Y10 and Y11
Monday 6 th September	Whole school to attend

The second round of testing will commence during the school day from on Monday 6th September for pupils with consent.

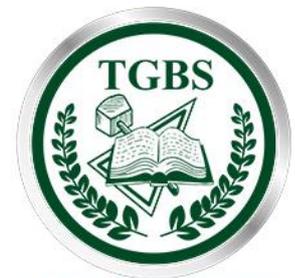


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How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of each nostril. Results (which take around 15 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the pupil and their parents of a positive test result. Parents will also receive notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

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 return to school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils will be informed of negative test results.

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>.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Till
Headteacher



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