

5th January 2021



NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students attending the reduced on-site provision for vulnerable children or children of critical workers.

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are working to keep our on-site provision as safe as possible. 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 tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to attend the reduced provision in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our on-site reduced provision open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. We cannot provide effective on-site support for students who have not been tested.

We will be testing all staff and students as soon as our testing arrangements are ready and hope to begin this on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information about how the test is taken.

If you would like your child to attend the reduced on-site provision please complete the consent form on-line and submit it a day in advance of your child attending. Once this form has been received we will be able to test your child on arrival prior to any provision. The results should be ready within the hour and if negative your child will attend our reduced provision. If the test is positive we will make contact with you and send your child home to isolate for 10 days. Once your child has arrived home you should arrange for a full PCR covid test.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). Parents will need to order the PCR test kit to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a walk-in, or, drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while students wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate at home.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and attend our reduced provision on-site. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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 (such as 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Our on-site reduced provision during this new lockdown commencing 6th January 2021 is dependent upon effective safety measures for both students and staff. We will be testing staff and students who attend on-site regularly. In order to have your child attend our provision please complete the consent form. Once this form has been submitted we will be able to test your child regularly when they come on site. Further consent forms will not need to be completed for subsequent testing.

Thank you for your co-operation and support for the safety of students and staff in school.