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10th December 2021

Re: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Pupils (0050-21NLI)

For pupils returning to secondary schools in January 2022, the Department for Education recommends that pupils are tested once for COVID-19 within a school testing facility. Schools will have discretion on how to test pupils over the course of their first week in school. It is our intention to begin the testing programme for pupils on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is completed using 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 settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore offering all pupils the opportunity to take a test. **It is important to note that whilst the tests are recommended, they are not mandatory and a pupil's ability to access school is not dependent on having one.**

Following the completion of the test in school, pupils will then be provided with home testing kits to allow them to continue to test twice a week.

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 the nose. Once a parent / carer has consented to their child having a test, school will register pupils via the online NHS system. Please note, all data on your child will be shared with NHS Test and Trace – this [Privacy Notice](#) details further information about how this data will be handled in accordance with GDPR legislation.

The tests we have are self-swab tests however, there will be helpers on hand to support pupils through the process. If you have any particular concerns about your child's individual needs and their ability to complete a self-swab test, please detail this on the consent form below.

If you would like your child to have a test at school, you must complete the consent form via the link below by midnight on Tuesday 14th December 2021.

Please only complete the consent form if you wish for your child to be tested.

[Covid-19 Testing Consent Form](#)



How will you get the results?

Results (which take around 15 minutes from testing) will be recorded by trained members of staff. Results will be uploaded to the NHS portal at the end of the testing session. Results, both positive and negative, will then be shared with parents / carers via text and/or email, usually within 24 hours. In the case of a positive result, school will contact both pupils and their parent / carer immediately.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and will be taken to the medical room in order to wait for you to collect them. In accordance with the guidance from NHS Test and Trace, they will need to self-isolate until they can be taken for a PCR test. If the PCR test returns a negative result the pupil can return to school. However, if the test result is positive, the pupil must continue to self-isolate as per the Public Health England guidance at the time of the 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.

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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Home Test Kits

As mentioned above, we encourage all pupils to test twice weekly using the home test kits (lateral flow device). Test kits are readily available via school reception throughout term time. You can also collect home test kits from any local pharmacy. Tests are free of charge.

Face coverings

Face coverings should continue to be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils. For Longfield, this means wearing face coverings as they enter the school at the start of the day; in the corridors; at lesson changeover; break and lunchtimes (corridor to canteen) and when leaving school at the end of the day whilst inside the building.

If you have any further questions please contact the school via enquiries@longfield.swiftacademies.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr N Lindsay
Head of School