

August 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for and Students

Dear Families,

As we look ahead to the next academic year, I write to inform you of our plans for COVID-19 testing of students when schools reopen. 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. Therefore, I am strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school students as they return after the summer break. In-school tests will take place twice (3 to 4 days apart) as schools reopen and students return. **We have designated Friday 27 August 2021 for the first test and Tuesday 31 August for the second test.** Our plan is to test as many students as possible before the school reopens. Thereafter, we will continue to provide test kits so that testing can continue at home, at least twice weekly, until the end of September at the earliest.

Consent for testing

We require consent for this new round of testing. Please complete the Consent Form which you can find at <https://www.dixonstc.com/news-events/news/covidtesting>. Please complete the form by **12pm on Wednesday 25 August 2021. Once your consent form is submitted you will be allocated a time slot for the first test on Friday 27 August 2021 and the second test on Tuesday 31 August 2021. Both tests must be completed to enable your child to take testing kits home and test twice weekly.**

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. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text / email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and will need to take a further PCR test to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text / email), they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If the PCR test has been completed within two days of the lateral flow test and the test result is negative, the individual will be allowed to end self-isolation if they do not have any Covid-19 symptoms.

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 via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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

NHS Test and Trace will be taking over responsibility for identifying close contacts for any positive Covid-19 cases in schools. If your child has a positive Covid-19 PCR test you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to identify close contacts. From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate but will be asked to take a PCR test and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test for a close contact is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts.



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 telephone on 0113 5125510 or email info@dixonstc.com

Yours faithfully,

Pippa Sadgrove
Acting All Through Principal

