



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you are aware, students are returning to school from 8th March 2021. As part of this, we are required to administer three lateral flow device (LFD) tests to students upon their return to kick-start an ongoing twice-weekly testing regime. Information regarding how we intend to manage this process will follow in due course. In the meantime, we would be grateful if you would read the information in this letter about LFD testing at school, read the attached privacy notice, and use the following link to complete and indicate whether you do or don't give consent: <https://forms.gle/RJypvP6awcQvEUJh8>

### What is asymptomatic testing?

Asymptomatic testing helps to identify and isolate people who show no signs of having COVID-19 but are carrying the virus. We are using antigen lateral flow device (LFD) tests, which are highly specific meaning that only a small proportion of people who do not have COVID-19 will receive a positive result. Extensive clinical evaluation from Public Health England and the University of Oxford shows that LFD tests are appropriate for large-scale population testing, including for asymptomatic people.

### Why is asymptomatic testing being used?

The ultimate aim of testing is to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. As many as one in three people with COVID-19 show no signs of having it and are therefore *asymptomatic*. Testing regularly helps stop the virus spreading.

### How will the testing be carried out?

An Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) has been set up in our school, by us, and testing is done using self-swab LFD tests, which produce a quick result in about 30 minutes. We have already been using this effectively to test our staff during the national lockdown. If the result is positive, self-isolation is required following current public health advice. If the result is negative, national and local rules and guidelines must still be followed including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings, where required.

### When will testing take place?

Students are required to test twice per week. The first three tests will be carried out in school by trained school staff. Students will self-administer their test with guidance and support should they need it. After the first three tests, students will be provided with home kits to continue twice-weekly testing in the home. NHS guidance states that students aged 18 and over can carry out and report their test independently; students aged 17 and under can carry out their test with adult supervision and an adult reporting the result; and, students aged 11 and under should have their test carried out by an adult and reported by an adult. You know your son/daughter best, so we will leave this up to you.

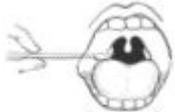
Staff will also continue testing twice per week, but this will be done at home rather than in school from 8th March onwards.

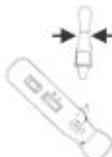
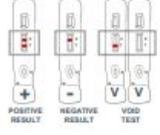
More information will follow about home testing once we have it.





**What will the testing process look like?**

1	2	3	4	5
				
Students will be welcomed to the site and asked to sanitise their hands and remove their mask	Students will blow their nose into a tissue and throw the tissue into the yellow / clear waste bin. This gets rid of excess mucus. They should then sanitise their hands once more.	Students will look inside their mouth and find their tonsils – using a mirror helps. Tonsils, marked in green, are where to swab the sample. If they've had tonsils removed, the area where tonsils would have been is where to swab.	Students will open the package and gently take out the swab. This will be used for both throat and nose.	Students will open their mouth wide and rub the fabric tip of the swab over both tonsils at the back of their throat at least 4 times (again, a mirror helps). If the person being tested can't take a throat swab, they can swab both nostrils instead.

6	7	8	9	10	11
					
To swab the nose, students should put the same end of the same swab gently into one nostril until they feel a slight resistance (about 2.5cm up the nose). Rotate the swab 10 times and slowly remove it.	Finally students will place their swab directly into the pre-prepared vial in the tube rack or equivalent, with the cotton bud end facing down and leave the test site.	Next, the Testing Processor will squeeze the swab into a special solution.	The swab is then thrown away leaving only the solution.	Two drops of the solution is squeezed onto the sample well of the LFD cartridge and the time of the test is recorded on the LFD.	Results are analysed in 20 – 30 minutes and recorded.

**AMBITIOUS. RESPECTFUL. READY.**





### Does my son/daughter have to take part?

No, you do not have to provide consent, it is entirely voluntary. However, everyone is strongly encouraged to take part in the interests of public health and breaking the chains of transmission.

### Can my son/daughter use the school test site if they have symptoms?

No. This is an asymptomatic test site meaning it is for people with no symptoms. If your son/daughter has symptoms, they should follow public health advice, self-isolate and book in to a standard test centre for a PCR test which is processed in a laboratory.

### Will the school use the test site to prevent my son/daughter having to self-isolate if they are a close contact?

No. This was the original aim of the government, but the tests are not reliable enough to be used for this purpose. If we have a case in school, we will identify close contacts and they will be required to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

### What next?

Please read the additional information attached along with this letter, and then complete the short consent form also attached. 'Yes' and 'No' responses are required so that we can be sure every family has seen this information. Students aged 18 and over can complete their own consent; for ease, we have sent it to parents/carers but please feel free to pass this on to your son/daughter if they are aged 18 and you would rather they complete it themselves.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett  
Headteacher

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