

20th July 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may have heard that we are required to test students for Covid-19 before they return to school after the Summer Holidays using tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to give you more information about the testing programme for our school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the transmission in school. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested. The tests are not harmful and involve taking a nasal swab. No injections are involved. Trained staff will assist your child with self-administering the test. Please complete this Google Form if you give consent for your child to be tested: <https://forms.gle/iqE9GhV8CxUdV1Rr6> . We can only test students who have returned this consent form. If we do not receive a completed form from you we will not test your child and assume you do not give consent.

Plan for testing

We will be testing students as they return to school, they will return to school the following day after they have had their first test. They will be tested twice and the times and dates of your child's test can be found below.:

	Week A			Week B			
Time	Wednesday 1st	Thursday 2nd	Friday 3rd	Monday 6th	Tuesday 7th	Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th
	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Sports Hall	Sports Hall
08:30-09:00		11.1	10.1	9.1	11.1	10.1	9.1
09:00-09:30	7-1,7-2	11.2	10.2	9.2	11.2	10.2	9.2
09:30-10:00	7-3, 7-4	11.3	10.3	9.3	11.3	10.3	9.3
10:00-10:30		11.4	10.4	9.4	11.4	10.4	9.4
10:30-11:00		11.5	10.5	9.5	11.5	10.5	9.5
11:30-12:00		11.6	10.6	9.6	11.6	10.6	9.6
13:30-14:00	12A	13A	8.1 - 8.6	7-1,7-2	13A	8.1 - 8.6	
14:00-14:30	12B	13B	8.2 - 8.5	7-3, 7-4	13B	8.2 - 8.5	
14:30-15:00	12C	13C	8.3 - 8.4	12A -12C	13C	8.3 - 8.4	

15:00-15:30				12B			
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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/college 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 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 stay in 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 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 emailing office@uaesouthbank.org.uk or calling 0207 277 3000

Yours faithfully,



John Taylor
Principal