

Monday 4th January 2021

NHS COVID-19 asymptomatic testing information and consent for students in schools and colleges

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following my previous letter on the 30th December 2020, I am writing to you with further details regarding Covid testing for students and staff within school.

At present we are planning to:

- Test staff once a week
- Test students on their return to school
- Test all students and staff who have been in contact with a positive case in 'serial testing'

How do the tests work?

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat. Students will be given a swab which they use to swipe their throat and then their nose. This will be then given to a test assistant who will process the results of the test.

How do we get the results?

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed via text if the test is negative and via phone if the test is positive.

What if the results are negative?

If the results of the test are negative, the member of staff or students will be able to carry on with their school day.

What if the results are positive?

If results are positive, the student or staff member will be sent home and will then have to isolate in line with current Government guidance (currently 10 days isolation). They will be sent home with PCR Covid test. This is a confirmation test which is sent off to a laboratory for testing. It is possible that people may receive a negative result following a PCR test. If this is the case, they will then be able to return to school/work.

How do I consent to my child being tested?

Collecting consent at whole school level is a time-consuming administrative job and we would therefore like to make a start before our return to school. Please take time to read this information and subsequently, if you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the registration and consent form via the link below and submit **by 3pm on Wednesday, 6 January 2021**.

www.nusa.org.uk/consent

Do I have to consent to my child having the test?

In short, no. The tests are voluntary. If you do not consent, and we identify that your child is then in contact with a positive case, your child will be sent home and will have to isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance. If you do not complete the consent form link above, we will assume that you do not wish to consent to testing for your child.

I have consented to the testing for my child, am I able to change my mind at any stage?

Yes, if you consent to your child being tested and then change your mind, you must notify reception as soon as possible so that we can update our records.

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>.

What is 'serial testing'?

If a child or staff member is in contact with a positive case, they can now continue to attend school every day providing they have a lateral flow test every day for 7

days. This will not include the weekend so they would need to isolate over the weekend period and pick up testing on their return to school to finish the 7 days.

When will the testing happen?

We will write to you later in the week with further details on the dates for testing. Our first step is to seek consent.

We are currently looking for volunteers to conduct testing in school. You would be provided with all of the training required to fulfil this role. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in volunteering to support this, please contact me directly on ehoward@nusa.org.uk by 3pm on Wednesday 6th January, so that I am able to provide you with some further information.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep our school open and as safe as possible. We will support our staff and pupils throughout the challenges that Covid19 continues to bring.

Yours sincerely

Emma Howard

Head of School