

18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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

### **Plan for testing**

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school and college age students as they return after the summer break. In-school tests will take place twice (3 to 5 days apart as schools reopen and students return). 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 is on our website. Please complete the form by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**.

### **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 has been completed 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 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 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 emailing [info@dixons6a.com](mailto:info@dixons6a.com).

Yours faithfully,



Mark Rothery  
Principal

