

25 January 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

### **Lateral Flow Testing Consent – Students currently in school**

As I am sure you are aware, the Department for Education (DfE) have tasked secondary schools with completing mass testing for asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 for staff and students within schools. Although the vast majority of our students are not currently in school, we have been asked to start testing those children currently attending (children of critical workers or those children considered 'vulnerable') at some point in the week; our aim is to begin testing these students from the week commencing 1 February.

**Please note that, although the Department for Education abandoned its plans to use daily lateral flow tests for contacts of positive cases, this decision does not affect the programme of mass testing for asymptomatic cases.**

The Lateral Flow Tests which we have received from the NHS are quick and easy to complete, giving staff and students a result within 30 minutes. As such, we will be able to do the following (in accordance with the guidance issued by the DfE):

- Test all students twice within a five-day period upon their return to school
- Test all staff members twice weekly

Whilst this is a new area for us, we are keen for it to be a success and encourage as many of our staff and students to participate. I would also like to assure all parents and carers that we are diligently following all the guidance which has been shared via the DfE, and all staff members involved will have completed the training provided and certified as competent. The NHS have provided appropriate risk assessments, which have been amended to the needs of our schools and are available on The Education Alliance website.

If you would like your child to participate in mass testing, you will need to complete the consent form by following this link: <https://forms.gle/bwwF9aACpYGftzyB9>

**This is a voluntary consent; it is not mandatory to participate. If you choose not to consent, then your child will not be tested.** Full details on how your data will be managed can also be viewed at <https://theeducationalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

The DfE have also created a FAQ sheet for parents on the lateral flow testing process and this can be viewed at <https://theeducationalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

**Once you have provided consent for your child, if they are over 13, they should be registered for an NHS login. This will link the details of the test they take to Test and Trace services. You can register this on behalf of your child, or they can register for this themselves. Registration requires an email address, mobile phone number and password to be created (this will need to be memorable for your child as they need to input it on the day of the test).**

<https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit>

Test subjects will need to provide the following details (it is important that your child is able to answer these):

- Name
- Gender
- Date of birth
- Ethnic group
- Details of recent travel to work or place of education

Test subjects will need to provide the following details:

- Contact email
- Contact mobile phone number
- Home address (including postcode)

We will arrange the dates/times for the tests within the school day and communicate this with your child. On the day of the test, your child will:

- Be escorted, with their peers, to the school testing area.
- Be registered at the testing centre by one of our staff members and asked for their name and date of birth, to confirm that they have consent.
- Be given a testing record card, containing a unique barcode. This enables you to register your personal details and contact information in order to receive confirmation of their result linked to their NHS login (**see above**). Test results are recorded on the NHS test and trace system at the end of a testing session (at the latest at the end of a school day).
- Once registered, your child will be directed into the testing area where they will swab their throat and nose and hand this to a test processor. Your child will be guided and supported on how to do this; however, we are unable to conduct the swabbing on behalf of your child.
- Once they have completed the self-testing process, your child will be able to return to their class.

The test is processed on site by a test processor and takes 30 minutes. **In the unlikely event that the test is positive, we will contact you immediately** and you will be asked to collect your child from school. They will be asked to leave their class and escorted to a safe area within the school until you are able to collect them. This result will be recorded on the NHS test and trace register and you will be given a postal PCR Covid-19 test, which you should conduct at home. Your household will need to enter household isolation awaiting instructions from NHS test and trace regarding the duration of this, and to ascertain any other close contacts (outside of your household) that your child may have had.

**It is also important to note that where someone receives a negative result from a lateral flow test, this is not guarantee that they do not have Covid-19. Therefore, they must continue to follow all virus-control measures (such as social distancing, wearing of a mask where required etc).**

Yours faithfully



Debbie Dalton  
SLT Lead for Testing