

23 July 2021



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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is ongoing, using COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices.' This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school in September.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and school settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those attending school to be tested.

SEND students

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school, agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments, especially if the individual has a disability. Parents and carers may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

Plan for testing

From Monday 6th September 2021 we will start testing all staff and secondary school age students that are currently attending.

In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in school.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat (some tests are nose swabs). For those who are unable to self-swab, please refer to the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information about options. 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 or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they 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. School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

While waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by NHS Test and Trace.

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 students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by emailing admin@pilton.college

Consent

If you are happy for your child/(ren) to be tested, please complete the registration form and provide your consent by clicking on the link that was provided in the supporting letter.

Yours faithfully



Mr Graham Hill
Headteacher