

COVID Testing In Schools Registration & Consent Form Information

We are working to keep our Academy as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school/college safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our Academy open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the NHS Test and Trace registration and consent form** (one per student, you will be sent a separate link for each child you have in school). Please note we are collecting the information required for registration and consent in one form to make the process as simple as possible.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge and on return to school, pupils will take **three tests** in the Academy after which, home testing will begin. **Further details around home testing will be communicated in due course.**

Your child will return to school, in line with the Academy's planned arrangements, following their first negative test. Where a child does not take a test, they should also return to school as per the planned Academy schedule.

Where a child takes a test and the test is void, a further test will need to be carried out. You / your child if they are over 16, will be contacted by the school to arrange this.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School / college will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from

NHS Test and Trace following public health advice.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school/college and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow government guidelines to self-isolate even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 should follow government guidelines to self-isolate at home and not attend school/college for 10 days.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school/college 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

NHS Test and Trace registration and consent form guidance for COVID-19 testing

The common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of students and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff.

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing. Any questions have been answered satisfactorily by the accompanying literature, accompanying privacy notice or contact with the school.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for lateral flow tests. I / my child will self-swab if I / my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my / my child's result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where I am / they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I / my child is removed from school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I / they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.

8. I understand that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result.
9. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this lateral flow test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
10. I understand that if a close contact of my child tests positive that my child will self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.