



21st January 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff

Dear Staff/Parents/Governors,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as a 'lateral flow device'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme for staff in our school.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing of staff will allow us to take further measures to help pupils and staff to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission.

Testing

Staff who have opted-in will undertake two lateral device tests per week.

How the tests work

The lateral flow tests are easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat and the results are within half an hour.

What if someone tests positive?

If a staff member tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will inform myself immediately. All close contacts of the staff will be informed that they need to self-isolate. This is anyone who has been within 1 metre for 1 minute or 2 metres for 15 minutes or more. The staff member will also take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be as soon as possible afterwards. During this time while they wait for the PCR result all close-contacts 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. If the PCR test returns a negative result, then the isolation period ends upon confirmation from Lincolnshire Public Health.

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What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of participants may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those who test negative will resume their work as normal.

What if they develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If they develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your 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.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs CV Collett
Executive Headteacher

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