

Our Ref : SPP/JET
25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

When students return to school in the week commencing 8 March 2021 they will be offered three quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow device' tests. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school.

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 age students as they return after lockdown. All students will be tested before they return to the classroom and then again two more times between three and five days apart. We have been running this programme successfully with the students who have been in school since the start of the year. Following the three in school tests we will be provided with home testing kits for students to do at home. We will provide more details about this when we have them.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be required to self-swab but will be supervised and guided by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant via the NHS system. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. Students will be given a bar code and instructions for logging their details on the online NHS system to receive the result directly from the NHS via email or text. As the registration process requires students to log personal details on the NHS site we ask that they bring the details home and do the registration process with parents. They can however be assured that if the test result is positive they would be informed by a member of school staff within 40 minutes of taking the test.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school. They will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. School will contact parents immediately if their child tests positive so that they can be collected from school at the earliest possibility. If a student tests positive they are not permitted to travel on public transport.

What happens if the lateral flow 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.

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 the school and will need to isolate for a period of 10 days from the onset of symptoms or date of the test if the person was asymptomatic. We hope in the future that if close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school however this part of the testing programme is currently paused.

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>. They must not come into school to take a test.

If your child is in Y7-Y11 please complete the consent form in the link or QR code below as soon as possible and at least 48 hours before your child's return to school date:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=teDtT4qK4EOX77bhNpiafnlaQ39yds9PrbWMxZ0LrIRUNDVOVKEyQIFCQUo3MFI4QThSVFJKR1dUQS4u>



Students in Y12 and Y13 can provide their own consent and should complete the form in this link or QR Code:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=teDtT4qK4EOX77bhNpiafnlaQ39yds9PrbWMxZ0LrIRURURYUUNRRTY2NlkwV09DOFBXRfpKVzc3Ti4u>



We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by emailing enquiries@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S P Pender', is written in a cursive style.

S P Pender
Headteacher