

Additional Parent Information on Mass-Testing (Lateral Flow Testing)

**PLEASE NOTE – MASS TESTING IS CURRENTLY PAUSED DUE TO NATIONAL LOCKDOWN
WE ARE CURRENTLY ONLY TESTING STUDENTS AND STAFF ATTENDING VKW PROVISION**

Please also see the accompanying leaflet:

[How to do your Lateral Flow Test Leaflet for Students, Staff & Parents](#)

What is a Lateral Flow Test?

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. Lateral flow testing involves 2 tests 3-5 days apart that use a nose/throat swab and returns a result within 30 minutes. Anyone showing symptoms or testing positive will still be required to contact NHS 119 and take the original PCR test.

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. Staff will supervise the testing process and be on hand to support if required.

Results are available within approximately 30 minutes of testing. We will ONLY inform you and your child if the test is positive. If we do not contact you, then a negative result has been returned.

How reliable are the tests?

All of our current protective measures will continue to remain in place alongside these tests as results are not completely 100% and some people may choose not to take the test. However, the tests will increase safety, provide some reassurance and allow earlier identification of infection.

The tests are voluntary, but the government are encouraging everyone to take them.

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests 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.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students/staff receiving a positive test 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). To book a PCR test, go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119. Self-testing kits can be ordered if transport is a problem but a drive-through test site is preferable, 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. Please keep us informed of the result.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in college and resume their activities as normal. A student 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 students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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 may be able to return to college if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of college who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Additional information

You may also find the links below useful:

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/15/mass-testing-in-schools-your-questions-answered/>

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/17/coronavirus-screening-for-secondary-and-college-students-in-the-first-week-of-the-spring-term-your-questions-answered/>

How do I give Consent?

If having read the information in this document and the accompanying leaflet, you are happy for your child to be tested, **please complete a consent form by clicking [here](#).**

Testing is completely **free of charge**.