

12 August 2021

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing: Phased return week beginning 6 September

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to explain that there will be an initial phased return to school for your child/ren. This is to ensure that students can be laterally flow tested (LFD) as per the government requirements, where consent is given. Where consent is provided, students are required to be tested twice within the first school week of returning so we can start the term with confidence.

The link for giving consent can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Please could you ensure this is completed by no later than **Friday 27 August by 9.30 am** so we can bring in staff to manage this process.

The schedule of the first test is listed below, beginning with the new year 7 students. These students will have a specially arranged induction day on Thursday before officially starting their term on Monday 6 September.

Details of the booking times during the morning and afternoon will be sent to you and your child after giving consent. **On the testing day, the students will be given a time slot to come into school to be tested, and then go home.** They do not need to wear the school uniform on the testing day and the whole process should be completed within a one-hour time slot.

September LFT testing rota for all year groups

- We are required to test students **twice** in the space of 3 - 5 calendar days at the start of the new term.
- Please complete the consent form to enable your child/you (if over 16) to be tested. Click [here](#) to fill it in.
- **Note that there will be a staggered start to the term dates in red are the revised starting dates.**
- Assembly Hall is the venue for testing. Timeslots will be emailed to students in advance of the allocated test date.
- 2nd test will be three to five days after the first test in purple. Students will be informed of this once they return.

1 st TEST DATE	Year Group to be tested	Start of term date
Wed 1 September	Year 7	NB: Year 7 students will be in for an induction on Thursday 2 September Monday 6 September
Friday 3 September	Year 11	Monday 6 September
Weekend		
Monday 6 September	Year 10 & Post16	Tuesday 7 September
Tuesday 7 September	Year 9 & Year 8	Wednesday 8 September

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Principal: Mr B. Erwin | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

Students will then commence face-to-face lessons on the dates above coloured in red. Further details about track and trace and isolation can be found on the second page of this letter. Finally, we are really looking forward to welcoming the students back.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Erwin

Principal



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Updated NHS Guidance for self-isolation and taking a test

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This information below sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website](#) or by calling 119.

PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education

or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts

From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test.

If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

NHS England.