



1st November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Mass Testing for Covid 19 – Lateral Flow Tests (LFD) and follow up PCRs

As we start the second half term of the academic year I am keen that we do all we can to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We have been invited by Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, the Director of Public Health for Lancashire to take part in additional testing as a precautionary measure due to the rising number of positive cases in school immediately prior to half term.

When will this testing take place?

Testing will take place at school, administered by Public Health England on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd November. Most parents have already given their permission for LFD testing, and we will use the permissions given at the start of the school year in September to facilitate this mass testing exercise. If you did not give permission, your child will not be included in testing. If you wish to revoke permission, please do this by contacting us via main reception.

Likewise, if you wish your child to be included where they were previously excluded, please let us know by following this link and completing the form

<https://forms.office.com/r/75ixe2j4pQ>

My child has had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. Should they take part.

No. Current guidance is that anyone who has tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not take a further test. If this applies to your child, please ask them to let us know and we will not present them for testing. We will exclude those children we know have had PCR tests, but inevitably some will have tested positive in August that we don't know about. This timeframe includes any PCR test taken from 1st August to today.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. They will then be asked to do a PCR test onsite, which will be sent off for processing by the Public Health England team. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified using the contact details given to us on the consent form. During this time while they wait for the PCR result they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in the school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow test', so if they do not hear anything from us they should assume that the test was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for any reason.

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 (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 by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

You can find out further information on our website regarding FAQs and how your data will be used by visiting our school website <https://www.ashtoncsc.lancs.sch.uk/covid-19>

Before half term, I wrote to you suggesting the additional control measure of your child wearing a face mask in communal areas of school. I would like to remind you of this option and am grateful of your support in encouraging your child to wear a face mask where possible when in school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith
Headteacher