

10 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid 19 National Testing Programme: January 2022

Following the Christmas break, we are required to offer all pupils one lateral flow device test in school before returning to lessons. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic and by testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission.

These tests will be carried out before pupils return to lessons, which will mean a change to the planned return after the Christmas break. On Tuesday 4 January, we will undertake on-site testing for pupils. Pupils will be allocated a timeslot, based on their school year, to come up to school to be tested and then return home.

All pupils are to return to school on Wednesday 5 January.

Schedule for testing and return to school in January:

Tuesday 4th January 2022	
Year 7	9:00 – 10:00
Year 8	10:00 – 11:00
Year 9	11:15 – 12:15
Year 10	13:00 – 14:00
Year 11	14:00 – 15:00
Wednesday 5th January 2022	
All pupils return to school	

As in September this year, pupils will test themselves with supervision from trained staff and results will be known within 30 minutes. The tests are voluntary, but we would strongly encourage everyone to take them to help keep our school community and families safe from Covid-19.

Consent and booking

Testing can only be carried out with consent. If you have previously consented for your child to be tested, you do not have to re-consent. If you wish to withdraw your consent for your child to be tested, please let us know by emailing warren.middleton@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk. On the other hand, if you wish your child to be included in the testing and have not yet given consent, please complete this form and return to school via the email address above:

[Covid Testing Consent Form January 2022](#)

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Acting Principal: Mr J Cowper
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Attending test appointments on Tuesday 4 January 2022

Pupils should arrive at school during their assigned time period and enter school through reception. Pupils will then make their way through reception to the school hall and head left, down the steps to the registration desk. Pupils will then be directed to a testing booth to administer the test. Once the test has been completed, pupils will leave the school hall through the designated side door and make their way down the stairs by the gym, onto A Floor and up the stairs to reception and leave through the main entrance.

Information about lateral flow device tests

These tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

We are informed that these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they 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 (and is more infectious), hence the need to test frequently.

Taking the test

We understand that your child may be anxious about taking the test in school. It is a simple procedure, and pupils will test themselves using a swab of the throat with the supervision of trained staff with relevant qualifications. On-site testing has taken place over two occasions in the past 12 months and is extremely well organised. The school will inform parents/carers of a positive test result within 1 hour of the test being administered. If you do not hear from us within an hour of the allocated time slot for your child, then their result is negative.

What if a pupil tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a confirmatory PCR test ordered. The confirmatory PCR should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative, the pupil can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained, the pupils should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

What happens if the 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 resume their activities as normal.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated;
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months;

- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial;
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Whilst waiting for the PCR test result, children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.

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 visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID- 19?

If a child has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in the return to school testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result.

If you do have any questions or need any further information about the testing programme, please contact Warren Middleton through warren.middleton@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Cowper
Acting Principal