

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You will have heard that from 8th March all children should return to school and be tested for COVID-19. We are currently making plans and arrangements for the return of pupils and we will send a further letter to inform you of the day your child is expected to return to school. There will be a staggered return to allow school sufficient time to complete the testing of pupils whose parents wish them to be tested. Please look out for a letter next week telling you when you should send your child back to school. If your child is currently accessing the on-site education provision (because you are a critical worker or your child is vulnerable) your child can continue to attend school as normal during the week beginning 8th March.

At CLHS, we have set up our rapid testing centre and are ready to test pupils when they return to us from 8th March 2021. In line with government guidance, the purpose of testing in schools is to identify and help prevent staff and pupils without symptoms from transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly. Testing will allow schools to operate as safely as possible by self-isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as possible.

The DfE guidance asks us to implement 2 components of the COVID-19 rapid testing programme in schools:

- Test students on their return to school: when returning to their school students will be offered 3 'lateral flow tests' spaced three to five days apart. (Thereafter, pupils will be able to carry out home testing using a test provided to them).
- Carry out bi-weekly testing of school staff: staff will be able to carry out 2 home tests on a weekly basis.

Pupils can return to school following their first negative test result. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with the school's staggered return arrangements.

Those pupils taking the test in school will be advised and supervised by trained staff. Pupils will carry out the swabbing themselves. The 'Lateral Flow Device' (LFD) tests are quick and easy, using a swab from one nostril and the back of the mouth. The leaflet attached gives an explanation of how to self-swab. It will be useful to discuss how to self-swab in advance of the test being done.

Parents or legal guardians will be informed of test results (which take 30 minutes from testing) via NHS Test and Trace by email and text. Positive results will be shared by the school directly with parents or legal guardians. We will advise you of what you will need to do if this situation arises.

We understand that there can be anxiety around the experience of testing and awaiting results, and have an established system that is supportive, safe and efficient.

Testing is voluntary and your child will only be tested if you have given consent. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part in the testing programme. Your child will not be stopped from returning to school if you do not give consent.



If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the digital form by 10am Tuesday 2nd March 2021. If your child has been attending the on-site provision and you have already completed the consent form you do not need to complete it again. <https://tinyurl.com/epa9h79t>



Please also read our privacy statement which explains how personal data will be processed and stored (attached).

If there are further questions that you want to ask not covered in the information already shared, please email us at CLHS@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk with the subject line 'COVID-19 Rapid Testing'.

We will be in contact with some further information about your child's testing date and return to school date.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria O'Farrell

Vice Principal