



25.02.2021

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

Dear Parent / Carer / Pupil Over 16 Years,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms has begun across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in school.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. The test is voluntary. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission.

### Plan for testing

Pupils under the age of 12 years will not be tested on the school site.

If pupils choose not to be tested they should return to school in line with the arrangements in place.

For pupils younger than 16 years – the consent form must be completed by the parent or carer. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Pupils over 16 years may complete their own consent form.

To enable registration for testing, consent forms must be returned to the school by 12 noon on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Forms can be returned to reception as hard copy documents or can be emailed to the school via [covidtesting@durhamjohnston.org.uk](mailto:covidtesting@durhamjohnston.org.uk)

We will offer supervised testing on the dates shown below. All pupils should attend according to the times shown for their tutor group. Please be aware that parents may use the car park but may not come into the school and pupils should walk to the test centre from the car park. The route will be clearly marked.

Pupils attending on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March are permitted to leave home whilst stay at home guidance is in place only to attend the test. They must go straight home after the test to ensure that they comply with the stay at home guidance.

All pupils and parents using the car park must maintain social distancing and not mix.



**Headteacher:** A J O'Sullivan BA, MA

**Deputy Head:** R McFadden MEng

**Director of Resources:** H Charlton BA, MBA

**Assistant Heads:**

J Bell BSc, MA

S A F McArdle BSc

N Weaver BA

M J Wright BA



## **How the tests work**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers, all of whom have been DBS checked and inducted in school policies and procedures.

The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. **For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process but they cannot administer the swabbing – this must be carried out by the pupil.**

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared only where the result is positive or void. The school will inform pupils over 16 years of a positive test result and, for all pupils, parents or carers will also be informed.

Tests are free of charge.

A useful video guide can be found here;

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEZY\\_JGKdhE&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEZY_JGKdhE&feature=emb_logo)

During the supervised test on the school site, LFT trained school staff, supported by volunteer medics (qualified doctors / nurses) will check that students are self swabbing correctly and that they feel confident doing so. These pupils will be signed off as ready to transition to home testing. This seems an appropriate approach for our older students and reduces the need for further tests on site and associated disruption to their education. For pupils, particularly our younger or vulnerable pupils, who do not feel comfortable or would benefit from further support, we will offer subsequent support / testing sessions in school prior to transitioning them to home testing.

## **What if I test positive?**

Participating pupils over 16 yrs who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents and carers will also be informed if the child tests positive.

Any pupil testing positive will need to self-isolate for 10 days along with all members of their household.

## **What happens if the test is negative?**

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was void, pupils who test negative will be able to return to school and resume their activities as normal.

### **What if pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?**

The pupil will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for a period of 10 days as per the national guidelines.

There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and follow all advice or instruction provided by NHS test and Trace.

### **What if I develop symptoms?**

**This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms.** If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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 you must book a PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

**Please complete the consent / registration forms and return to the school by 12 noon on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

All data collected will be held within GDPR regulations – please refer to the available privacy policy.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A O'Sullivan

Headteacher

## DATES & TIMES FOR TESTING

Friday 5th March		
Session 1	08:55	12A
	09:15	12C
	09:35	12D
	09:55	12H
	10:15	12J
	10:35	12M
	10:55	12R
	11:15	12U

Monday 8th March		
Session 1	08:55	10A
	09:10	10C
	09:25	10D
	09:50	10H
	10:05	10J
	10:20	10M
	10:35	10R
	11:00	10S
	11:15	10U

Tuesday 9th March		
Session 1	08:25	9A
	08:40	9C
	08:55	9D
	09:20	9H
	09:35	9J
	09:50	9M
	10:05	9R
	10:30	9S
	10:45	9U

Session 2	12:25	13A
	12:45	13C
	13:05	13D
	13:25	13H
	13:45	13J
	14:05	13M
	14:25	13R
	14:45	13U

Session 2	12:25	11A
	12:40	11C
	12:55	11D
	13:20	11H
	13:35	11J
	13:50	11M
	14:15	11R
	14:30	11S
	14:45	11U

Session 2	11:25	8A
	11:40	8C
	11:55	8D
	12:20	8H
	12:35	8J
	12:50	8M
	13:05	8R
	13:30	8S
	13:45	8U

Session 3	14:25	7A
	14:35	7C
	14:45	7D
	14:55	7H
	15:10	7J
	15:20	7M
	15:30	7R
	15:40	7S
	15:50	7U