



Hodge Hill Girls' School

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Dear Parent/Carer

The DfE, in association with NHS Test and Trace, have asked secondary schools to introduce Lateral Flow Testing with the following intentions:

- Test as many students as possible on their return to school to identify asymptomatic cases and reduce the risk of transmission in school
- Test staff weekly
- Use serial testing as a way of monitoring infection in potential close contacts.

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 have trained a workforce of staff from within school, who are all DBS checked, to conduct the testing of young people.

We have set up a 'Testing Centre' in our Changing room which will be regularly cleaned and adheres to the government guidance we have received. A Testing Risk Assessment will be available on the COVID area of our website before the first date of testing.

Students will be expected to administer the test themselves, with the support of trained staff who will then process the test whilst students return to lessons.

If a child tests positive from a Lateral Flow Test, they will need to be immediately isolated in the building whilst we inform you and ask you to collect them.

Lateral Flow Testing does not replace the measures we have in place to minimise the risk of infection at Hodge Hill Girls' School. Students will still be expected to wear masks, undertake regular hand washing and social distancing where possible.

Lateral Flow Testing will only allow us to identify potential **asymptomatic** cases (without symptoms) and does not replace the other measures we have in place, as per our school Risk Assessment, to keep everyone safe at Hodge Hill Girls' School it is essential that if your child or a member of your household has Covid-19 related symptoms, you must all self-isolate whilst you arrange a test for the symptomatic person.

Lateral Flow Testing is not mandatory, and your child does not have to take part in the testing programme. In this instance, students who do not have consent to have a Lateral Flow Test in school would need to self-isolate if they came into close contact with a positive

case in school and would learn remotely, in line with government guidance and as happened to some students in the autumn term.

Please read the attached Privacy Notice carefully and if you are happy to provide consent, complete the form on the attached link.

If you are happy for your child to be tested in school and then if they are identified as a potential close contact, please complete the Consent form on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=f5AG6xM5i0em84YJRrwmDfXm5A525vdCnz0XvrDa7AVUNEIVT001SjhXS1NVUkVMS0Q2TDZLS1o5Qy4u>

We will be offering three tests 3-5 days apart when schools can reopen, all participating students will then be offered home testing kits to complete at home.

We would therefore appreciate it if you could complete the consent form.

If you have any further questions regarding asymptomatic testing in school, please contact your daughter's pastoral manager.

Many thanks for your continued support. I hope that you and your family keep safe and well at this challenging time.

Best wishes

Mrs K A Cooney
Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum and Data