



Holy Family Catholic High School

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Friday, February 26, 2021

School re-opening & NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Year 11 pupils

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well and safe.

As you know schools will be welcoming back children from Monday 8th March. In the Government's announcement they highlighted two significant changes, face coverings and testing.

Face Coverings

- Our pupils have been wearing face coverings when moving around school and in some lessons since September 2020.
- The Government is now recommending that when we return, face coverings should be worn in all classrooms until at least Easter (for 3 weeks when the guidance will then be reviewed).
- Unless your child is exempt from wearing a mask, please ensure that he/she has an appropriate supply of face coverings for use at school every day.

Testing

- The Government announced that all pupils are to be tested (Lateral Flow Test) on their return to school and they will take a further two tests in school, approximately three to five days apart.
- After that, parents are expected to test their children twice a week at home with home-testing kits that will be provided. As soon as we have more information about the home-testing kits we will let you know.
- Taking the test is voluntary but we would encourage as many pupils as possible to take part in order to reduce the risk for all members of the community.
- Pupils aged 16 and over are responsible for providing consent to testing and for pupils under the age of 16, parental consent is required.
- The details about the consent forms, registration and the testing process are later in this letter.

Return to school for Year 11 pupils

- To ensure that we can get the children back into school as soon and as safely as possible, we are going to start our testing programme on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March. Schools have been given special dispensation to begin the testing prior to the 8th March. We have decided to take advantage of this so that our children can return to school as early as possible.
- **Thursday 4th March:** Year 11 pupils who have been given consent will come to school at an allocated time **between 11am – 1pm** to take their first test and then return home. Testing will take place in the Sports Hall and pupils are to enter the school site at the Reception entrance. **Children who are coming in on the school bus will be tested between 11am – 12 noon. For children making their own way to school (e.g. parents/walk/bicycle), they are to come between 12 – 1pm.**

Parents can wait whilst pupils are taking the test and we will also make the school bus available to all pupils to help them get to and from school free of charge. The children do not have to wear school uniform for this test but they must have a face covering (unless they are exempt). In the consent form, please indicate whether your child will be travelling on the school bus to help us with our planning. We will provide details of the times and pick-up points for the school bus next week.

- **Monday 8th March: All Year 11 pupils are to return to school at 9am.** Those who have been given/have given consent will take their second test and return to their normal timetabled lesson. Year 11 (Bubble B) will follow their normal timetable, school times, routines and expectations, as they did before Christmas, and we return on a Week B timetable. **School will finish at 2.35pm.** The school bus will operate as normal for those children who use it.

Remote Learning

- Due to the additional challenges of running mass testing, key worker school, remote learning and planning a safe reopening there will be no live lessons from Thursday 4th March until your child returns to school on Tuesday 9th March. Your child should still follow their normal timetable and work will be set for them on Teams.

The Lateral Flow Testing process

The school's test centre has been successfully up and running since January, completing asymptomatic testing (Lateral Flow Testing) for staff and pupils in school. The tests are quick and self-administering, under the supervision of trained staff. I have attached to this letter an NHS information leaflet about this testing process. Pupils who are displaying symptoms should not attend our test centre and should call 119 to arrange a PCR test.

Consent and Registration

You will be sent a separate email with the links to the consent and registration forms. Please complete the forms for each child. These are new forms and must be completed prior to your child's return to school. As part of the registration process, please insert an appropriate email and mobile phone number where you wish the results to be sent to. ***Please complete the consent and registration forms by 3pm on Monday 1st March to help us with our planning.***

Consent is required for your child/ren to take part. We cannot allow your child/ren to take part if consent has not been given. Pupils who are aged 16 and over at the time of testing are able to self-consent. Paper based consent forms will be available of the day for those aged 16 and over if they have not completed the electronic form. Consent only needs to be given once.

What happens if my child tests positive using a Lateral Flow Test?

Your child and your household will be required to self-isolate to avoid further community transmission for 10 days after the day your child tested positive.

If your child tested positive with a home test, they will need to arrange a PCR test to confirm the result. To do this, call 119 or visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. The closest PCR testing centres to our school are Crosby Library and Bootle Town Hall.

Until your child receives their PCR test result, your child and your household will be required to self-isolate to avoid further community transmission. If your child's PCR test returns positive, your household will be required to isolate for 10 days after the day your child tested positive.

If your child's PCR test returns negative, your child and your household will not need to isolate and you can return to your daily activity, such as attending school and work.

Please note: If you have children in more than one year group, for ease, you can bring them all in at the same time on the day/time-slot allocated to your oldest child (e.g. if one child is in Year 11 and the other in Year 8, you can attend on the time-slot allocated to your Year 11 child). Unfortunately, they will not be able to use the school bus if they are travelling together.

What if my child will find it difficult to attend school to take part in the testing?

Asymptomatic testing using Lateral Flow Tests has been, and continues to be, available across the Liverpool City Region. The closest 'SMART' sites to our school are Bootle Leisure Centre and Aintree Racecourse. If you would prefer to make use of one of these sites instead of our school site, please don't hesitate to do so. All we ask is that you notify us if your child has tested positive.

We are excited and delighted that our pupils will be returning to school and, as always, we thank you for your patience and continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Symes