

# Asymptomatic Screening Tests

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Secondary Aged Pupils

Thursday 25th February 2021

Dear Parent,

You may have heard that there will be in school and at home testing available to pupils on their return to school. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Oakfield. Rapid testing using lateral flow devices will support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus symptoms.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help identify potential positive cases. 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. I am therefore encouraging pupils in Year 7 or 8 to begin testing at school and eventually at home. Testing remains voluntary but is encouraged.

1. On site testing: Pupils will be invited into school for an initial test and will return home to wait for the results. Pupils with a negative result and no coronavirus symptoms will then be able to return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. There will be 2 more on site tests around 3-5 days after the previous test. Pupils will leave their lessons and come to the crush hall on the day of their test and will be able to return to lessons immediately.
2. Home testing: Following the three on site tests, pupils will then be provided with an at home testing kit to carry out twice a week. There will be more information to follow about home testing.

## How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff but pupils complete the screening swab themselves. The lateral flow device tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the parent. You will receive a notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and here is a leaflet link with further information.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/946612/How\\_to\\_do\\_your\\_test\\_COVID\\_19\\_instruction\\_leaflet\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf)

## Registration

This will be completed for you by the academy using the information provided on the consent form. Pupils will be given an appointment time on the days of their screenings.

## What if someone tests positive?

If someone tests positive on a lateral flow device test, parents will be informed immediately and the pupils will need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. Please contact the academy immediately as this will confirm our need to risk assess for potential contacts.

## 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 stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Parents will be informed of negative test results via text/email.

## What if staff or pupils have been in close contact with someone in the academy who tests positive?

The staff member or pupil (and their parents) will be notified that they are a close contact by the academy. They will then need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

### What if they develop symptoms?

This testing programme at the academy is for people with no symptoms. If anyone 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.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

### What if my child has been in school as a key worker or vulnerable child?

If you have already given your consent to testing, you do not need to complete this form again as you have already given consent. Please contact us if you now wish to withdraw consent for testing.

It is important that you complete this form by **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 9am** so that we can plan our testing timetable with the exact number of pupils requiring testing. We will not test any pupils without parental permission.

### Instructions for giving consent:

Consent can be given on Parentpay. Please log in and go to 'Pay for other items' then select the 'Consent form for asymptomatic testing' payment item and click on **view**. In the 'Additional information' you will need to ensure that you tick the box next to 'I understand that the information below will be shared with any parent/carer linked to (your child's name) Parentpay account'. You will then need to complete the 'Emergency contact details' and 'other details' sections. Please tick the button to consent and click on 'confirm attendance'. Please ensure you answer all of the questions.

We are here to support you, please just ask if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,



**Emma Wilkes**  
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