

13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff and [Students/Pupils]**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning 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 our school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents and carers may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

### **Plan for testing**

We plan to test all staff in school weekly, and ask that all students access the community Lateral Flow Testing centres weekly to ensure that they are infection free when they return to school. You can book using this link <https://beta.lambeth.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/book-rapid-covid-19-test-if-you-have-no-symptoms>

### **Exceptional circumstances**

In exceptional circumstances, a member of staff may be able to conduct a test with your child. Your child will be required to self-swab whilst supervised by the staff member, who will then process the test. The lateral flow device tests are easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant, and parents/carers will also be notified.

### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. Park Campus will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home.

Whilst waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **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 attend/stay in school and continue their studies as normal.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at [school/college] 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 book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If you have any questions regarding this, do please contact school.

If you think there might be exceptional circumstances in your household, and that your child might need to be tested by Park Campus staff, please complete and return the permission slip attached.



Melissa Elvé-Williams

Headteacher Park Campus Academy

## Consent Form

Re: (child's name) \_\_\_\_\_

I, (Parent/carer name) \_\_\_\_\_

give permission for Park Campus Academy staff to administer a lateral Flow test for my child. I understand that they will be given the result if they are still in school, and that I will be given the result by text, email or phone call.

I understand that if they test positive, I will have to follow NHS guidelines and (a) book a PCR test (b) isolate.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_