

24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

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.

Plan for testing

We will be testing all secondary school age pupils (KS3 Years 7 & 8 only) as they return to school. Pupils will be offered three Lateral flow tests (LFD) spaced 3-5 days apart. **The first of these tests will take place prior to Year 7 & 8 pupils returning to school full time. Please complete the enclosed consent form by Tuesday 2 March, we will be unable to test your child without prior consent.**

This is so pupils have undertaken some testing in a supervised setting, and have had the chance to familiarise themselves with self-swabbing. Following these initial tests, pupils will transition to home testing (further details to follow). It is important initially that pupils are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly.

Year 7

Pupils whose parent/carer have returned the consent form will be invited into school during the day on **Monday 8 March for testing** (*further details and timings will be emailed once we have confirmation of numbers*). **All Year 7 pupils** (including those who have not consented to testing) **will return to school full time on Tuesday 9 March 8.45am**

Year 8

Pupils whose parent/carer have returned the consent form will be invited into school during the day on **Tuesday 9 March for testing** (*further details and timings will be emailed once we have confirmation of numbers*). **All Year 8 pupils** (including those who have not consented to testing) **will return to school full time on Wednesday 10 March 8.45am**

The remaining two tests will take place during the school day - Year 7 – Thursday 11 and Monday 15 March and Year 8 – Friday 12 and Tuesday 16 March.

'Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5 v 16
Head Teacher: Mr Daniel Jeffries BA(Hons) MA NPQH

Selwood Academy, Berkley Road, Frome, Somerset, BA11 2EF
Telephone: 01373 462798 Fax: 01373 465712
email: selwoodacademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk web: www.selwood.somerset.sch.uk

Registered Company Number: 7814065

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat which your child will administer for themselves. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the pupil of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil/parent will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information. Please note, the results can only go to one number which we recommend is the parents contact as pupils are under 16.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days 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 stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils will be informed of negative test results via text. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be informed.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if my child develops 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 book a 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.

Yours faithfully



Dan Jeffries
Head Teacher