



5th January 2021

Dear parents and carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students attending school during school closure (critical worker children and vulnerable students)

As your child is attending school during national lockdown, please read the following information carefully.

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. 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 Tests' (LFT).

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. 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. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

Lateral flow testing (LFT) is not a replacement for current prevention measures and it is essential that everyone continues to wash their hands regularly, use face coverings and maintain social distancing where required. Current lockdown restrictions should also be adhered to outside of school.

We aim to commence testing of all staff and students who want to participate during the week commencing 4th and 11th January, following receipt of their consent. Initially consenting staff and students will be tested twice, between 3 and 5 days apart. Following this initial testing staff may choose to be tested weekly. Your child's first test will take place once we have staffing and resources in place, towards the end of this week or the beginning of next.

We have also been asked to use LFT to support keeping students in school where they have been a close contact of a positive case. We will consider this on a case-by-case basis.

I've attached an instruction leaflet which explains how to do the test.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please read the privacy notice attached. You will then need to provide consent by completing the form using the following link. If you have more than one child in school, a separate consent form will need to be completed for each of your children.

Consent form link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6NoSaA9nYUGP0nCJ4fq3vlu9rHmAwGFKssp9rnz8X7FUQzRVUDEzVjMyREw4NTBUQ0ZSTzZKNFJJQy4u>

I've also attached a sheet containing Data Protection Frequently Asked Questions.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy to take by using a swab from the nose and throat.



Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. Lateral flow tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if a pupil tests positive?: Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time, while students wait for the PCR result (via text / email), they will need to self-isolate.

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

What happens if the test is negative?: They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?: A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

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 (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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need more information. You can call the office on 0121 675 1305 or email enquiry@knks.co.uk

We are currently looking for a few people who would like to work as processors for the testing, this would require the ability to work flexibly over the next few months. If you are interested in finding out more please email enquiry@knks.co.uk.

Kind regards
Nicola Raggett, Headteacher

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