



Meadowhead School

Academy Trust

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12th January 2021

Dear Staff Member,

RE: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

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 at Meadowhead School.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help you and other staff members to remain in 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 in school to be tested at least weekly during lockdown.

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. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the participant of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The participant will also receive a notification of a positive or negative result via text/email.

Please find below frequently asked questions around testing. Our testing privacy statement and terms of consent documents are also attached. To consent to COVID-19 testing in school please complete the consent form using the following link: <https://mhsch.uk/covid19testingstaffconsent>

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office using the contact details at the top of this letter.

If you are unable to access the electronic consent form please contact us using the details at the top of this letter and a paper consent form can be provided.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Grewal-Joy
Headteacher

COVID-19 Testing in School – Frequently Asked Questions

What if a student tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and 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. School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. During the time while 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 people may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Participants will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also 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. Close contacts will be identified and informed to self-isolate until the result of the PCR test is known. If the PCR test result of the person that has tested positive on the lateral flow test is negative, close contacts will be informed that they can return to school/daily activities. If the PCR test result is positive, close contacts will be informed to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the last date of contact with the positive case.

What if I develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If you develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) you must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>