

Information on Mass and Serial Testing for COVID-19 in Schools and Consent Form

Dear Students/Parents,

Schools are once again being asked to 'mass' test students for COVID-19 one lateral flow test upon the return to full time education in January. Rapid result testing is a reliable and effective way to identify people without symptoms that we otherwise wouldn't know about.

Up to a third of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is so important. This is known as 'mass' testing.

Mass Testing

A student will be offered one self-administered rapid-result test upon their return to school after the Christmas holidays. If a student receives a **positive result** for the lateral flow test, they must go home immediately, obtain a confirmatory PCR test (through the national NHS laboratory testing scheme) and await the results. They must self-isolate until the PCR test result is known. If a student receives a **negative result** for the lateral flow test they can continue to stay in school.

Plans and schedule

It is important to outline plans for mass and serial testing as well as obtaining consent from students to take the test in school. The test will be completed during the normal Academy day during either 4th or 5th January 2022. Prior to your child's return on 4th January we would ask you to administer a home test on Monday 3rd January 2022 using the kits provided by the Academy prior to the holidays.

Consent

We are asking you to give us an up to date consent for this testing series. The test used is a double nasal swab Orient Gene test rather than a throat and nose swab. This is less intrusive, gives a quicker result and will be used in all schools and colleges as part of the testing programme.

Serial Testing

Serial testing was first used in schools and colleges across the UK before the return to face-to-face education in March 2021. The lateral flow tests that are used produce a result in 15 minutes and do not require laboratory processing or to be administered by clinically trained members of staff.



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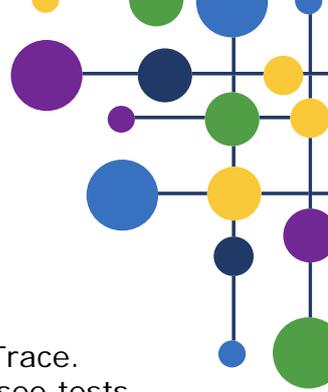
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Schools are provided with lateral flow tests free of charge from NHS Test and Trace. Staff in school will be trained on how to run a testing programme, how to oversee tests being taken and how to manage the process safely.

What if I don't want to take part in serial testing in school?

Students are not obliged to complete a test, but it is an important part of reducing the spread of asymptomatic COVID-19 in the wider community ahead of the return to full time education.

Why do we need your data and what will we do with it?

Schools are required to hold lateral flow testing data in school for a 14-day period. This information will be held on a secure database with limited access. Schools are required to hold this information to monitor and track positive lateral flow test results and report it to the necessary bodies (such as NHS Test and Trace and the Local Authority).

The information that will be collected is:

- Student's full name
- Date the test is taken
- Tracking number on the test kit
- Result of the test
- Additional information associated to the test (such as if it is inconclusive)

Schools are covered by Section 3 of the Non-Maintained Schools Regulation (1999) as a lawful basis for processing personal data associated with the testing.

After a 14-day period, schools will safely dispose of data that is no longer required.

Why do I need to provide consent for testing?

Because participation in the programme is voluntary, consent is required for the testing and the holding of data.

A parent/carer may withdraw their consent for school to hold this data at any point, however, if consent is withdrawn, the student cannot take part in the testing programme.

A student is not allowed to take part in the testing programme until a signed consent form is held in school.

Please complete the enclosed NHS Test and Trace Consent Form for Covid-19 testing.



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Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools (including sixth form)

Introduction

This consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Consent relates to the following groups of pupils and staff as follows:

- **For pupils younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Pupils over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **For any pupil who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Terms of consent

In-School Testing:

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented and the attached Privacy Notice.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having/my child having a nasal swab for a lateral flow test. I/my child will self-swab if I/my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available.
4. I understand that one test is required and this consent covers that test for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I/they do not wish to take part, then I understand I/they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my/my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my/my child's result(s) is/are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school except where I am/they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I/my child is removed from the school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I/they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
8. I understand that I/they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result and obtain a PCR test.



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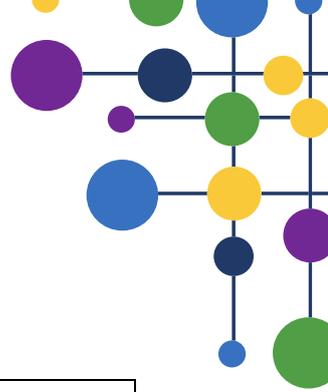
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Consent Form:

Pupil's first name:	
Pupil's last name:	
Year group:	
Date of Birth:	
Email Address – this is where test results will be sent.	
Mobile Number – this is where test results will be sent. Please do not put a landline number – you can only receive test results to a mobile number.	
Name of parent/guardian giving consent:	
Relationship to pupil:	
Date:	
Details of any health or accessibility issues which might affect a child's safe participation in the testing exercise.	

Consent boxes (signature required in each):

<u>I/my child</u> gives consent to having one lateral flow test on the school site.	
Thereafter, <u>I/my child</u> gives consent to having 2 lateral flow tests per week at home until further notice.	



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