



3rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Lateral Flow Testing – Parent/Carer Consent Letter

Lateral Flow Covid-19 Testing

You may have heard that testing for those without Coronavirus symptoms has begun across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at 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 have successfully completed an effective testing programme for our Key Worker/Vulnerable Pupils and AGSB employees. As we look to the future and welcoming back the rest of our pupils we must roll out mass testing. As such, we need to gather testing consent.

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 will be shared directly with the individual participant and the NHS test and trace system. Results can be interpreted within 30 minutes and we aim to share results within 24 hours. Positive test results can show within 20 minutes and school will inform the pupil of a positive test result immediately. The school will react to a positive case by isolating the pupil, contact parents/carers and beginning internal contact tracing.

Where participants are under the age of 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil will also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. If your son is aged 13 or over, he can register for the NCS test and trace app which will speed up the process. Further information can be found on <https://covid19.nhs.uk/help-downloading.html>.

Firstly, before we can start this process, we need you to complete the Covid-19 consent form giving us permission to carry out the testing. Please also ensure that you read the Covid-19 Testing Privacy Statement which can be found on our website or by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Please complete using this link - [Covid-19 - Lateral Flow Testing Consent Form](#)

Finally, please find overleaf some FAQs. Should you have any additional questions or require any further information, please feel free to email me on covid@agsb.co.uk

Yours faithfully

M Soulsby

M Soulsby
Assistant Head (Development)

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing FAQs

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 [pupil/student] of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The [pupil/student] will also receive a [text/email] 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.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and must self-isolate for 10 days.

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/email.

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. They must self-isolate for 10 days.

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 staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by emailing covid@agsb.co.uk.