



25 February 2021

Dear parent/carer,

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Students

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that secondary schools will begin to welcome students back into school from Monday 8 March, I am writing to give you information about our Covid-19 testing programme.

We will be using the new, quicker Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices' (LFD). Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic (i.e. have no symptoms). By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging all students and staff returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We are planning to test all students three times as they return to school. After the initial three tests in school, the government will provide free home testing kits for your child to use at home.

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. The school will inform the student of a positive test result as soon as possible. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge. You can view further information about the test in this leaflet at: <https://www.silverdale-chorustrust.org/attachments/download.asp?file=768&type=pdf>

What do you need to do?

Please complete the online consent form before **1pm on Monday 1st March**.

You can access the form at: <https://tinyurl.com/ktenkv7k>

- **Students 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.
- **Students 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 student 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.

Chorus Education Trust CEO: Chris James



You will receive further information about the return to school and the schedule of testing over the coming days.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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/college] and resume their activities as normal. Pupils 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 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 staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact us on 0114 236 9991 or enquiries@silverdale-chorustrust.org

What happens if I don't give consent for my child to be tested?

Whilst we are encouraging all students to be tested, participation in the programme is voluntary. If you do not give consent (or your child refuses to swab) then they will be able to return to school at the same time as their peers.

I will write to parents, carers and students again over the coming days with more detailed information about the return to school. In the meantime, if you could complete the online consent form as soon as possible, that would be greatly appreciated.

With best wishes,



Sarah Sims
Head of School