



Our Ref: SZW/lr
14th December 2021

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Headteacher : Jennie Giovanelli

Dear Parents/ Carers

Re: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students, including registration and consent for lateral flow tests – January 2022.

You will be aware that testing using lateral flow tests for those without coronavirus symptoms forms part of the Government's plans for the re-opening of schools after the Christmas break. I am therefore writing to you today to outline the arrangements for the testing of students on their return to school in January 2022.

Why are schools being asked to administer these tests again?

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help us break chains of transmission in schools after the Christmas holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people. We know that on-site testing participation rates amongst students are much higher than when testing at home, so this is the most effective way to identify as many positive cases as possible at the start of the autumn term. 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.

What are the expectations of testing in schools?

The expectation from the Government is that all students (providing we have consent) are to be tested **once** upon their return to school. **Any student without consent or wishes not to take a test will not be tested and will still be able to be in school alongside their year group.**

How will the tests be administered?

Students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating if they are positive. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The in-school tests are identical to the tests that students have done previously in school and at home as part of the Governments home testing programme.



What happens if the test is positive?

Should a student test positive as a result of a lateral flow test, they will need to complete a PCR test at a walk-in clinic or apply for a home test and then isolate for the required 10-day period should this test also return positive.

When will the tests take place?

The test will be taken on your child's first day back at school after the Christmas break. Students will take the test themselves under trained staff supervision. The test takes less than a minute to complete. We still encourage all students to take twice weekly LFT's over the Christmas Holidays. Test packs will be issued in the final week of term to support this. To support the testing process year groups will return in January as below on a staggered start basis to ensure a safe return to school:

Tuesday 4th January 2022	Training Day – school closed to students
Wednesday 5th January	Y11/12/13 in school - 8.40am
Thursday 6th January	Y7/10 in school - 8.40am
Friday 7th January	Y8/9 in school – 8.40am
Monday 10th January	All year groups in school - 8.40am

Once a year group returns to school they will stay in school.

Home Learning

For those year groups not in school, work will be set on Teams. To support the mass testing roll out, there will be NO LIVE LESSONS. Assignments will be set by teachers on Teams.

Microsoft Teams can be accessed by clicking the **Office 365 link** at the top of our website <http://www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk>

Students will require their school email address and should use the same password as they would if logging into a computer in school. Teams works across devices including laptops, PCs, tablets, smart phones as well as Xbox and PlayStation consoles.

Students will be expected to follow their timetable and should go to the relevant Class Team where they will find work set in an assignment. This work is intended to be completed independently.

Please note that the timetable is for **Week A**. Student timetables are available via Teams Calendar.

Once students have completed their LFT they will return to lesson.

Support for Students Learning from Home

Free School Meal vouchers will be provided, by the online service WONDE, for all students who are working remotely and are not onsite. You do not need to apply for the vouchers as we will arrange for them to be sent to the parents of all students that are registered for Free School Meals, via the email address that you have registered with us.

What do I need to do for the onsite testing?

There are 2 important aspects that parents and carers should be aware of prior to testing which are: consent and registration.

Consent

Please could all families of new students to Kingsthorpe College since March please fill in this consent and registration form (one per student) indicating whether you are happy for your child to be tested or not, and press submit: [CONSENT FORM](#)

If you have previously completed the consent form, you do not need to give consent again.

The consent form includes a link to the Privacy Notice for Covid-19 testing, that can also be found on our website at www.kingsthorpecollege.org.uk

Registration

The second key part of the process is registering with the NHS Test and Trace system. When students arrive for their test, all students will have their details registered with the NHS to allow them to receive the results.

Students, who are in Year 9 and above, can speed up this process by creating an NHS login (you cannot do this part if you are under 13) which will reduce the time it takes to register their details for their initial and any subsequent test. If students would like to do this or you would like to look at the information requested by the NHS, please use the following link: www.Gov.uk/enter-lateral-flow-test

What happens after the school has administered the test?

After the test has been completed onsite, students will continue to administer the twice weekly tests at home under parental supervision.

How can I find out more information about the lateral flow tests?

You can view the updated FAQs on the school website.

What else can we do to help keep our community safe?

Although mass testing using lateral flow tests is aimed at picking up some of the asymptomatic cases in the population, the need to use other safety measures e.g., the wearing of masks when in crowded areas or on public transport, the use of hand sanitiser etc, is still very much encouraged to ensure that our school environment is as safe as possible.

Finally, I want to thank you again for your patience and for the many expressions of support that we have received. This really makes a difference, at a time when things are difficult for families, and you may be coping with much uncertainty in your own lives and households.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Wade
Deputy Headteacher

