

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

We have been asked by the DfE to test students on site once after the Christmas break to support the home testing programme. As always this testing is voluntary. This will take place during the first week back from Tuesday 4th January as follows:

Years 7 and 8 – Tuesday 4th January

Years 9 and 10 – Wednesday 5th January

Year 11 – Thursday 6th January

Sixth form students can attend for a test at any point during that time period.

All students will return to school on Tuesday 4th January – there will be no staggered start. We ask that all students do a home test on the evening of Monday 3rd January.

As it has been some time since consent was given for testing we are asking that the consent form is completed again for any student under the age of 16. Students 16 or over can consent for themselves when they are tested so there is no need to completed the form for those pupils.

The link to the form is:

<https://forms.office.com/r/mHQnJwVvch>

This link can also be found on our website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk in the Communications section.

So we are able to plan in regard to numbers we require parents to complete the consent form by Monday 13th December at 9.00am. The form will close after this point and we can no longer accept consent so it is crucial that you complete the form before this point. This is to enable us to organise the testing process efficiently and minimise disruption to learning as much as possible. We are unable to provide paper forms, as we need the information electronically for the test registration process.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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 (such as 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can email queries to schoolclosure@olcc.lancs.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Helen Seddon
Headteacher