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Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

For pupils beginning secondary schools in September the recommendation is that they have two COVID-19 tests (3-5 days apart). Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is completed using quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore offering all pupils the opportunity to take a test. All pupils will be given two tests 3 to 5 days apart. **It is important to note that whilst the tests are recommended, they are not mandatory and a student's access school is not dependent on having one.**

Following the completion of two tests in school pupils will then be provided with home testing kits to allow them to continue to test twice a week. The guidance on home testing is in place until the end of September 2021 when it will be reviewed and we will write to you again once updated guidance on this has been released.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff; the lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose. Once a parent/carers has consented to their child having a test then school will register them with the online NHS system in advance of them having their tests. Please note that all data on your child will be shared with NHS Test and Trace – the **attached Privacy Notice** gives further information about how this data will be handled in accordance with GDPR legislation.

Tests are free of charge and I **enclose a leaflet** with further information about how the tests are carried out – please note that the tests we have available are self-swab tests but we appreciate that your child may not yet have carried out a Covid 19 test and will be on hand to support and guide them all through the process. If you have any particular concerns about your child's individual needs and their ability to complete a self-swab test then please contact us at school.

Our intention is to begin the testing programme for pupils from **Thursday 2nd September**.

If you would like your child to have a test at school, then you must complete the consent form on the link below by **3.30 pm on Tuesday 31st August**.



[Consent for Covid-19 Testing](#)

Results (which take around 15 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student directly of a negative test result and will contact both pupils and their parents/carers immediately where there is a positive test result. You will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system as all pupils will be pre-registered with this.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and will be taken to the medical room in order to wait for you to collect them. In accordance with the guidance from NHS Test and Trace they will need to self-isolate until they can be taken for a PCR test. If the PCR test returns a negative result the student can return to school however if this test is also positive the student must continue to self-isolate as per the Public Health England guidance at the time of the test.

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.

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>.

If you have any further question please contact the school via enquiries@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk

Thank you for your support.



Mr D Judson
Head Teacher