



25 February 2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and pupils / students**

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in 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.

### **Intention for testing**

We will be looking to test all staff and pupils / students as they return to school.

### **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 them 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 attach a leaflet with further information.

### **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 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.

People in receipt of a negative lateral flow device result must still follow other COVID-19 safety precautions carefully – such as hand, face, space measures.

### **What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in School who tests positive?**

The University of Birmingham School

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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 (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) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff, pupils and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 0121 796 5000 or email [reception@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:reception@uobschool.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,

**Mr C Townsend**  
**Principal**  
**University of Birmingham School**