

8th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

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

I hope that you and your families are well and safe. The government has announced that schools will not be returning until 8th March at the earliest. As such we will remain open after February half term for a small number of children including the children of some key workers. I am writing to you regarding the Covid-testing programme planned for the return of these students to school on Monday 22nd February.

Most children have already been tested twice on their physical return to school. I would like to thank parents for their willingness to support the programme, and to commend all our students for the calm way they have approached what has been a new experience for most. Upon your child's return to school after the February half term, we will again be testing students twice, 3 days apart, on **Monday 22nd February** and **Thursday 25th February**.

Your child should attend their bubble classroom as normal by 8:30am on Monday 22nd February. They will be brought down to the Sports Hall during the morning for testing.

If your child is not scheduled to be in school on one or other of the testing days, we would nevertheless ask that you send them at 8.30am on that day JUST for the purposes of getting a test. Students need not wear uniform, and can leave school as soon as the test is completed. Having as many students as possible complete two tests is another way in which we are trying to keep our school community as safe as possible, and we would very much appreciate your cooperation in seeking to achieve this.

The consent form you filled in previously still stands. We will only accept consent for testing in writing via that Google Form. If you wish to change your consent preferences in any way (i.e. to give/remove consent), please contact Ms. Williams directly via email at kwilliams@vynersschool.org.uk.

Please note, a negative result on a Lateral Flow Device does not mean that your child does not have COVID-19, it merely indicates that at the time you took the test, no viral load was detected. Therefore, behaviours must not change as a result of Lateral Flow Testing. Even if your child receives two negative test results upon return to school, your child must still behave as if they have the virus. Testing is only one component of reducing risk of transmission in our school community. Other measures of hand washing/sanitising, wearing of face masks and social distancing (where possible) must still be adhered to.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

It is very important that you register your child's test to enable NHS Test and Trace to monitor the spread and prevalence of the virus in our communities.

You register tests at this link: <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit/register-rapid-test>

Your child will receive a **registration card and unique barcode** each time they have a test. You will need this to hand when you register the test. Registration can be done any time **up to 24 hours after a test** and takes between 5-10 minutes; we would encourage you to supervise your child when they do this for the first time. Please note that children over the age of 13 can set up an account for repeat tests to save them having to re-enter all their details; this means all they will need is to log in, submit their unique barcode and answer some simple questions. For children aged 12 years and under, they will need to complete the registration process in full for each lateral flow test. Your child has been given a [Loom video](#) and [Google Slides](#) walking them through the registration process (click on the hyperlinks to view them yourself).

I would like to thank all parents, carers and families for their continued support during this difficult time. We have very much appreciated all your kind messages during this first half term of 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Mullings', written in a cursive style.

Gary Mullings
Headteacher

APPENDIX:

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually by the school. Parents or legal guardians of students will also be notified by the school. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

The Government has temporarily **removed the requirement for a PCR confirmatory test**. So if your child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device, **they will have to self-isolate for 10 days along with everyone in your household too**. In such circumstances, you may be eligible for the self-isolation payments from the government.

What happens if the test is negative?

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told by school if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear from us you can assume it was negative. If you have registered via the NHS Track and Trace system, you will receive a test message from them with the results of your test - positive or negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines (currently 10 days). This does not apply to other household members. You may have heard in the media about 7 day daily testing, however this has been temporarily halted by the government. Online learning will be provided via Google Classroom.

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>. As before, a positive result must immediately be communicated to school, so that we might identify close contacts.