

18th February 2021

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

Dear Parent /Carer

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is taking place 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 our school and community through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

Staff and students currently on site are already being tested. We will be looking to test all staff and students as they return once we have confirmation of when this will happen from the government.

Please note this testing programme does not change the advice if you have any symptoms of Covid-19: do NOT come into school and book a PCR test as soon as possible.

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 take around half an hour from testing and the school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents/carers will also be informed. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they and their parents will be informed immediately by the school and will need to follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be informed.

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>.

When will my daughter be tested?

Students will be offered a test before or as they return to school, with a second three to five days later. In order for your child to be tested, you must complete a consent form found by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UnvL0sAmzk0TtEXr5NiKZY3XrUkrZNFbgGI7HyQCGWhURDBEQjIEQU9DU0RNMTRIMFdaRkExV09aWi4u>

We ask that you complete this consent form as soon as possible so that we can start planning for this once we know when the school is reopening.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by calling 0208 954 3623 or by emailing schooloffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



Dr Janice Howkins
Head teacher