



04 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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

School leaders are working to keep the school as safe as possible. 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 tests'.

Along with other protective measures already being taken in school, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep the school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we encourage everyone to take it.

We are being asked to test all staff and all students who want to participate from the week commencing 4 January 2021. We are making arrangements for the tests including organising the staffing needed and will communicate with you further on this in due course.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the information on the link <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cqg4I4vLzkmEI5yFJxLHsCouBizXzQIlmTDeANESUHdUNFRPSUhEQVICMIdVVkZQNFINWIBQUEs0QS4u> which includes a consent statement (one per student) as soon as possible. Consent can be withdrawn at any time. If you are unable to complete this form online please contact the school through admin@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed if the test is positive.

Testing is free of charge.

The following Q&A may be of use.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students 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.

Students 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). These PCR test kits will be available from school and should be performed 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, you 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) students will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result the student 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 student 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 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?

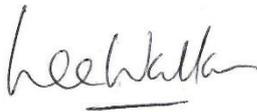
A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for seven days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of the school who will still need to self-isolate if they have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive. Further details will be provided at the time, but if a student would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, they can.

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>.

School staff will support staff and students throughout if you have any questions by contacting admin@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Lee Walker
Headteacher