



24 February 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students to attending school site

Dear Parents,

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 at Denmark Road High 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.

We will be looking to test all staff students as they return to school. Students will have three tests in school. Following that they will be provided with two tests per week to take at home.

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. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating.

The student will also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

What if I test 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 students 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 staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The 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 develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develop 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>.

Please can you return the consent form by 1 March 2021.

We will support you throughout, but please contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards

Claire Giblin
Headteacher