



7 January 2021

To Secondary Parents/Carers

Dear Parents & Carers

NHS Test & Trace: COVID-19 Testing Pupils

Marjory Kinnon School has now received the rapid lateral flow tests from the Government and will begin the process of setting up a testing site within school. This will allow us to test all staff on a regular basis and some older Secondary students who are able to tolerate it and self-administer a nose and throat swab.

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 Secondary school at this point to be tested if they can manage it.

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents and carers may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

Plan for Testing

We will be looking to test all Secondary Department pupils who have been offered a place during this lockdown period and then spreading this to all Secondary pupils when we fully open again. In addition, any student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in school. We will require Consent Forms from parents for all pupils. Pupils have a right to refuse tests which the school will respect. In some cases we may ask parents to come and support their children with the tests.

How the Tests Work

Pupils taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. For those who are unable to self-swab please refer to the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information about options. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the parent/guardian. The parents will also receive notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

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What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to take a further confirmatory 'PCR Covid-19 test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. Whilst waiting for the confirmatory PCR Covid-19 result, they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR Covid-19 test returns a positive result, the pupil will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test & 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. Parents will be informed of negative test results via text/telephone.

What if pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The parents of pupils will be notified that their child is a 'close contact' by the school. If parents consent, the child can be tested each day for a maximum period of 7-days, and if they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where 'close contacts' are also contacted by NHS Test & Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test & Trace that they are a 'close contact' through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

If parents do not want their child to take the tests, the child will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. The option of daily testing does not apply to household members or 'close contacts' of a positive case outside of school, who will still need to self-isolate.

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>.

We will support our pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the Office by email office@marjorykinnon.hounslow.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully



Tracy Meredith
Headteacher