



30th December 2020

NHS COVID-19 asymptomatic testing information and consent for students in schools and colleges

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my previous letter on 21st December 2020, regarding a staggered start to the new term to allow for preparations for asymptomatic testing in schools, we have now been informed that the new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests', will start to be delivered to schools from 4 January 2021, our designated logistical planning (INSET) day.

Along with all of the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely, as we will be able to test those who previously had to self-isolate due to close contact with a positive case of the virus.

We currently await the Government training materials and are preparing for the safe recruitment of volunteers and staff to run our testing facility, so at this stage, our intention is to provide:

- Weekly testing for members of staff
- Daily tests for students and staff who are identified as close contacts, prior to attending lessons, during what would ordinarily be the self-isolation period in order that they can remain in school (called 'serial' testing)

Testing is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it so we can help to stop the spread of the virus and keep as many of our students and staff in school as is safe to do so. Should a student not wish to undertake the test, normal self-isolation rules will apply in line with national guidelines.

The extent of our testing will be reviewed regularly and you will be updated accordingly.

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 staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. Please find some further information at the end of this letter and the Government's instructional leaflet attached.

Collecting consent at whole school level is a time-consuming administrative job and we would therefore like to make a start before our return to school. Please take time to read this information and subsequently, if you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the registration and consent form via the link below and submit by 3pm on Wednesday, 6 January 2021.

The Garibaldi School | Garibaldi Road, Forest Town, Mansfield, Nottingham NG19 0JX
Telephone: 01623 464220 | Email: office@garibaldischool.co.uk | Website: www.garibaldischool.co.uk
Executive Head Teacher: Ryan Hawley BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH | Head of School: James Aldred BA, QTS, NPQH

The link to register consent details can be found at: www.garibaldischool.co.uk/consent

Please note, separate forms need to be completed for each child you have in school. If you are unable to access the portal, please contact office@garibaldischool.co.uk or call the school on 01623 464220 from Monday 4th January 2021.

Once we have finalised our detailed testing arrangements next week we will of course communicate these to you.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep our school open and as safe as possible. We will support our staff and students throughout the challenges that Covid19 continues to bring.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Aldred', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Mr J Aldred
Head of School

Further information:

What if a staff member / student tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils 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. Pupils 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). The school may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform 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) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you 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 pupil 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 pupils 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 7 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 school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.