



NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

8 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

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 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 school to be tested.

Plan for testing

The equipment arrived on Monday 4th and we have spent this week training a team of staff to be able to deliver our testing programme.

We are testing all staff and key worker or vulnerable students who attend school during the lockdown.

In addition, any staff member or 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, rather than self-isolating at home.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. 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. The school will inform the student and their parents/carers of a positive test result. The parent will also receive a notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

Taking the test

Students will administer the tests themselves. Details of the test process can be seen on this [sheet](#). Students will be supported throughout the process by trained staff, as well as House Managers. No child will be forced to take the test and staff will not administer tests for students.

Consent to test

Parents/carers will need to give consent to students receiving the tests. This can be done on this [online form](#). Only one form is required for each child. Results of the test will be sent to the parent who completes the form. Consenting to your child having the test does not mean they *have* to take the test. However, not giving consent means we will be unable to test your child.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the us at support@manorhigh.leics.sch.uk or 0116 271 4941.

Yours faithfully,

Liam D Powell
Headteacher



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