

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

24 February 2021

Dear parent/carers

In response to the latest guidance, we will now plan to test students from Monday 8th March.

We are working to keep our 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 the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please read the consent information at the end of the letter, and complete the [LATERAL FLOW TEST CONSENT FORM](#) (one per student) for each of your Montsaye Academy children under 16. Children over 16 may complete the form themselves.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the 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 pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed of a positive result.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

Registration

To process the test, we will register all participating students. We will take these details straight from our SIMS system – please ensure we have the correct contact details for you and your child(ren).

What if a pupil 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 of a positive result. 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). School will 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, they 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?

Students will return to school after their first negative test result and then will receive two further tests (each 3 – 5 days apart) at school. Following these tests, students will continue with twice weekly testing using home test kits.

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?

School will follow the current guidance regarding notification of close contact with a positive case in school and expect parents to ensure children self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01536 418844 or email frontreception@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

The Microsoft consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of students and under 16s, and students over 16 and staff.

- **For students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
 - **Students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in this letter dated.
 2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
 3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
 4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
 5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
 6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
 7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
 8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
 9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will follow track and trace advice and self-isolate as per national guidance.

Please access the form via this link: [LATERAL FLOW TEST CONSENT FORM](#) and complete **and submit it by Monday 1st March 2021**. If you require a paper version of the form to complete, please request one from reception.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Gabbi'.

Mrs Gabbi
Principal