

Dear Parent/Carer

16 December 2021

On return to school after the Christmas break, the DfE has asked that all students are offered an onsite lateral flow test. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. The testing is voluntary but is strongly recommended. As previously, students will administer the test themselves and be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow test is quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the throat and/or nose. The results will take 30 minutes and we will inform the student of a positive test result before they leave site.

We have previously sent out a consent form. However, due to potential changes in circumstances, we are asking parents of students in years 7-11 to revisit this form and give consent again (consent form is not necessary for year 12 and 13 students). Please note that if your child has had Covid 19 within the past 90 days, they are likely to still give a positive result on a lateral flow test and should not take a lateral flow test. Please follow the link below and complete to give or withhold consent to onsite testing: [COVID Lateral Flow Device Testing in School Consent Form, December 2021](#).

We ask that only one form is completed per student. If circumstances change between completing the form and the test date of 5 Jan 2021, please notify us at data@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

Please note the deadline to complete the form is Wednesday 22nd December 2021

What happens if the test is positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, we will inform the student immediately and they will be advised to book a PCR test to confirm the result. This should be done on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. Whilst waiting for the PCR result, the student must self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

If a student tests negative they are able to return to school and resume activities as normal, following the current onsite risk assessment.

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

From Tuesday 14th December 2021, all children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact pupil should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the NHS Online Reporting System and to ourselves at covidreporting@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will send out further details next week of the testing programme.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Gabbi
Principal