

## COVID-19 Testing in Secondary Schools for Students- September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

You may have seen in the news that the government is asking all secondary schools and colleges to carry out testing for COVID-19 when students return to school in September, in order to detect individuals who have the virus but do not have any symptoms. By identifying these individuals and requiring them to self-isolate, it will be possible to break some of the chains of transmission of the virus, keep our communities safer and help to keep our schools open for in-person learning. The testing process uses COVID-19 tests known as **lateral flow tests**.

We will establish and run an *Assisted Testing Site* in September to carry out these tests. I would like to emphasise that it is then a personal choice for the family of each student as to whether to take part in this testing; individuals who remain symptom free will still be able to come to school even if they do not take part in this testing programme. I should also emphasise that **these tests are only for individuals who do not have symptoms of COVID-19**; anyone who has symptoms must not come into school and should arrange to have a PCR test. Alongside this testing programme, we shall continue to maintain good hand hygiene routines, extra cleaning, and as much ventilation as possible in classrooms.

The tests will take place at the dates and times indicated at the end of this letter. Each participant will be tested twice, with the two tests a few days apart. If you are happy for your child to take part in this programme, please fill in the **registration and consent form** below which will automatically come back to us when you click on **submit**. Please note that **no student will be tested** unless the **registration and consent form has been completed**.

**You do not need to fill the consent form if you filled it in for the previous round of testing.**

**REGISTRATION AND CONSENT FORM** – [please click here](#).


Those taking the test will be supervised by trained adults. The *lateral flow tests* are quick and easy using a swab of the nose. An adult will oversee the swab process, although the student will carry it out for themselves. Included with this letter is the privacy notice which explains what happens to the data we collect on the registration and consent form and through the testing process,




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 for a second test.

### What if the test result is positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. For all students the parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Principal: Mr A. Crofts BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

 The Quest Academy, Farnborough Avenue, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8HD

 020 8657 8935  [office@thequestacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thequestacademy.org.uk)  [www.thequestacademy.org.uk](http://www.thequestacademy.org.uk)



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Those receiving a positive test result will need to take a further PCR test (carried out in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a PCR test. Whilst waiting for the PCR result (via text / email) the individual will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a **positive result** the individual **will have to self-isolate** and members of the household must follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If an individual does not take a confirmatory PCR test, s/he must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive *lateral flow test*.

#### What if the test result is negative?

The individual will be able to carry on their activities as normal. A student will only be told if s/he tests positive on a *lateral flow test*, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

#### 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>.

#### Testing Days

Students must arrive for their tests at the times indicated below. Students should always arrive at the Glass Door entrance by the Sports Hall.

	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 7	8.30-9am	Students with consent will be tested as part of their first day.
Year 8	9.30-10am	9.30-10am
Year 9	11am-11.30am	11am-11.30am
Year 10 and Year 11	12pm-12.30pm	12pm-12.30pm
Q6 Students	1.30pm-2pm	1.30pm-2pm Year 12 students with consent will be tested as part of their first day.

Following these two tests in school, we shall provide home testing kits for those students for whom we have received consent, to carry out twice weekly testing at home until the end of September; we hope that you will be happy to participate in this process.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Your Sincerely



Mr T. Beecham  
Deputy Principal