

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

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NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

4th January 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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, and the UK Government are encouraging everyone to take part.

We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate from week commencing 4 January 2021.

There are two types of testing which are being offered to students.

Initial Testing – students are offered the opportunity to take two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid tests spaced three to five days apart which will be made available in weeks commencing 4th and 11th January. They produce a result in around 30 minutes. If POSITIVE, then students will be asked to book a PCR test at a local test centre and self-isolate at home with their full household until the test result comes back. If the PCR result is NEGATIVE then the full household is free to return to normal, if the result is POSITIVE then the full household will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

Serial Contact Testing – this approach will allow students who have been identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school if they agree to be tested for 7 days (excluding weekends) following their last contact with a positive case. Students will be asked to undertake 7 x daily LFD tests to remain at school and will not have to self-isolate at home as long as the daily test results are NEGATIVE. If the daily test result is POSITIVE, then students will be asked to book an immediate PCR test at a local test centre and self-isolate at home with their full household until the result comes back. If the PCR result is NEGATIVE, the full household is free to return to normal. If the result is POSITIVE, then the full household will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

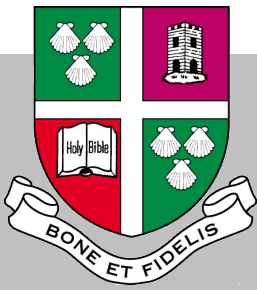
***Household includes Support bubble.**

I would strongly advise parents and guardians to consent to students being involved in **Serial Contact Testing**. At school over the Autumn Term, we had very low numbers of students who were identified as close contacts and asked to self-isolate, to then go on to develop symptoms and test positive for COVID-19. It will cut out the need to self-isolate for 10 days and ensure that students remain in school.

If you are undecided regarding Serial Contact testing, then there will be a further opportunity to consent if/when your child is identified as a close contact.

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR

I am Grovian.



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To access the above testing programmes students must be symptom free, if they have any of the symptoms outlined by the NHS in relation to COVID-19 then they must follow NHS Guidelines, stay at home and book a PCR test at a local test centre. They will not be able to access LFD test.

I enclose an instructional leaflet from the NHS with some more information on how students will be asked to undertake the tests themselves. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Students must be able to complete the test by themselves as staff cannot complete swabs for them. Please discuss how the test works with your child/children, to ensure they are comfortable doing it, prior to consenting.

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.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the NHS consent form (one per student) which is available to access via the following link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WGSNHStestingconsent>

You do not need to complete the consent form if you do not want your child involved in the Initial Testing and the Serial Contact Testing.

The deadline to complete the consent form is Wednesday 6th January by 9am.

Once we have a better understanding of the number of students consenting to access Initial Testing, we will then finalise a testing schedule and send out the booking link to parents. We will look to communicate this schedule to parents by Thursday 7th January.

We appreciate the inconvenience this causes, but safe opening relies on students being tested twice, as the Lateral Flow Tests that we will be using only pick up high viral loads, leading to significant numbers of false negative results. Testing twice mitigates this issue. Students will need to attend school for approximately 20 minutes on each of their two testing days in their designate year group slots. We request that participating students are brought to school by a parent or carer, by car, wherever possible. Car sharing is not a good idea, except for siblings.

At points in the schedule where a year group is being offered initial testing, remote learning will take the form of independent Firefly material that can be completed at a flexible time.

We are told by the UK Government that 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.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr D King

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR

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