Eden Girls

11th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Assalaamu Alaikum (Peace Be Upon You)

COVID-19 Testing in School

With the recent news of schools opening as early as the first week of March, we wanted to remind parents of the testing provided to staff and pupils without coronavirus symptoms using new 'lateral flow tests'.

The tests will be supervised by trained school staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Results are available within 30 minutes and will be shared directly with participating pupils and their parents.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

Please find additional information about the testing on page 2 of this letter and the Privacy Notice attached. If you are happy with the information you have been provided for rapid lateral testing, please click on the Link to complete the online consent form by Monday 22 February.

If you have any queries or concerns, or need support in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please do reply by Monday 22 February.

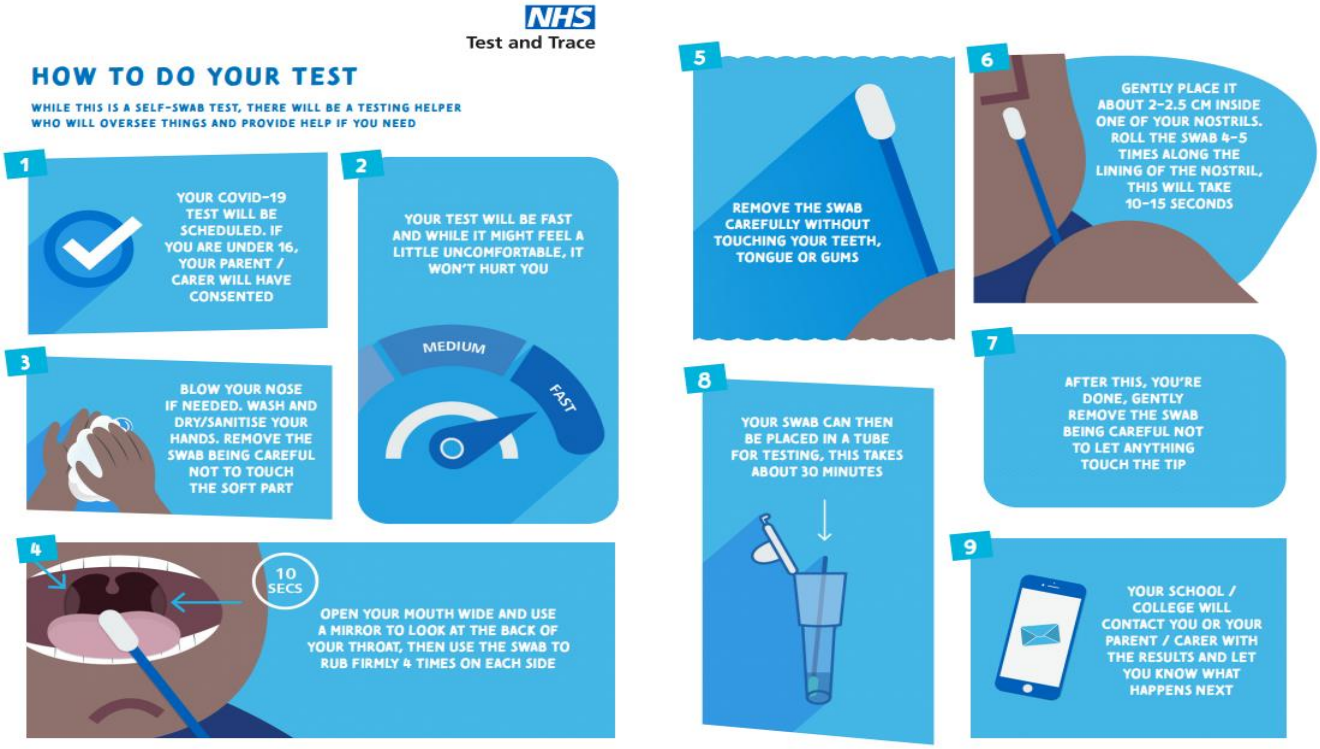
Thank you for your ongoing support of the school and our efforts on behalf of your child.

Please continue to remember all of our pupils and staff in your prayers.

Yours sincerely,

Sajid Khaliq
Principal

Additional Information



Do these tests work?

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests 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.

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. 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). The 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?

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/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

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.