



29 December 2020

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

Dear Parent/guardian,

I hope that the festive period has allowed some time to rest and recuperate for you and your family.

We continue to work to keep our School community as safe as possible during these difficult times. I am sure you have followed the media stories concerning the return to school testing plan. This is testing for those without coronavirus symptoms and is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'Lateral Flow Tests' (LFT)

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff, pupils 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 we encourage everyone to take part for the good of our community.

We will be testing all staff and secondary school age pupils (year 7 to U6th) who wish to participate from the week commencing 4 January 2021. [Details of this will follow.](#)

Attached you will find an instructional leaflet with more information about testing.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please copy and paste this link to your browser and complete the registration and consent form including indicating that you agree with the Covid-19 Testing Privacy Statement.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jwg9ZbVby0ChfNNhYLj4HuJ9HZWwl45AhpDli3ADMRFUMFIKV1NTTFhWRU5RRVpHSDJaTU9VTVgyUS4u>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The LFT are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat.

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. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Testing is free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?

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). Langley 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, you 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 an LFT, 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?

A close contact of someone in school 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact coronaupdate@langleschool.co.uk if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

There will be a further announcement from the government on the 30th and we will update following this.

Kind regards,

Lisa Green
COO

Rachel Smith
Director of Compliance & Operations