

Full return to school for pupils from 8 March 2021 – Communication 2b

COVID-19 On-Site Testing for Pupils (Lateral Flow Device)

I write to you about the rapid testing using the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) which will support the full return of all pupils to school from the 8 March 2021 by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

The Government Guidance published on 22 February 2021 identifies that all pupils need to be offered the opportunity to be tested three times at school in our Asymptomatic Test Centre (ATC). The ATC has been operating since January 2021 for all staff and for children attending our onsite (CWOSP) provision. Once pupils have had the three on-site tests, they will be provided with test kits for regular testing at home.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread within our school community through asymptomatic transmission. Whilst testing remains voluntary we strongly encourage those in school to be tested when invited to do so.

Plan for testing

For many pupils this will be their first COVID test and the school recognises that pupils will need to be supported and encouraged to **self-swab** effectively, therefore, for the pupils' first test we are dedicating a whole testing day for each year group as follows:

	Test Day 1*	Return to school
Year 11	Friday 5 March 2021	Monday 8 March 2021
Year 10	Monday 8 March 2021	Tuesday 9 March 2021
Year 9	Tuesday 9 March 2021	Wednesday 10 March 2021
Year 8	Wednesday 10 March 2021	Thursday 11 March 2021
Year 7	Thursday 11 March 2021	Friday 12 March 2021

* Pupils will come into school with their tutor group at their allocated time (please see schedule/communication 2c) that accompanies this letter) and will leave the school site as soon as they have had their test. The arrangements for the pupils' second and third tests will be published separately. These will take place during the school day once pupils have returned to the classroom.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained school staff and trained volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Pupils will **self-swab** with guidance from staff working in the centre. [Click here to see a video on self-swabbing.](https://www.camshill.com/cams-hill-covid-19-testing-centre/) Further information is available on our website <https://www.camshill.com/cams-hill-covid-19-testing-centre/>.

The school will inform the pupil and their parent/carer of a positive test result only

If aged 13 and over, the pupil can create an NHS 'Lite Registration' account which is the digital solution for matching Test Subjects to their LFD (Lateral Flow Device) result. With this account, the pupil will receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Pupils will be provided with details on how to create an account when they come to the centre for their test. Test Subjects aged 12 and under should not create an NHS account.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and isolated from others. Parents/carers will be notified so that immediate collection of their child from the school can be organised. The pupil will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result at a dedicated test centre locally to your family. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards using a regional testing centre and is the responsibility of the parents or carers to organise.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (which will be sent via text/email) the pupil will need to self-isolate at home along with anyone who lives with them and anyone in their support bubble in accordance with current national and local guidance which can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

If the PCR test returns a positive result the pupil will have to continue to self-isolate at home and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. The school will not notify pupils of a negative test result. If the pupil has signed up to the NHS Lite Registration online service, pupils will be informed of negative test results via this service in a text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or carers will also be informed.

What if pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The pupil and their parents/carers will be notified by the school that they are a close contact and will be informed of the next steps. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. The following link provides guidance for someone identified as a close contact.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

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 (including 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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Parent/carers consent for on-site LFD Testing

Following this letter, you will be sent a consent form (Communication 2d) with a link to follow for its completion – we ask that parents/carers complete the form and submit by **midday on Tuesday 2 March 2021**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy communication. Please be assured that we will support pupils throughout the testing process recognising that this is a very big step and may feel unsettling for pupils and parents/carers alike. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions using office@camshill.com.

Miss Rachel Matthews
Deputy Headteacher