



NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

Dear Parent/carer,

The Government have asked all Secondary Schools to offer their students two COVID-19 tests or 'lateral flow tests' on-site on their return to school in September. They would like the first test to be before the term starts.

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 testing program is voluntary, but I would strongly encourage everyone to take part. Last time we offered these test we had a 90% take up, which was excellent.

Trained staff will supervise those taking the test and year 7 students (who are new to the process) are welcome to bring a parent with them for their first test. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Staff will oversee the swab 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 to test frequently.

Testing will, of course, be offered free of charge.

For details of how your data will be used as part of the testing process, please see the attached Privacy Notice - COVID Testing document.

If you are a new parent or your child has not taken part previously, please fill in the required consent form by clicking on the link. This must be done before the first test day.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=R5KY_4gVYUaa1ZO5t0E6fUkD6QUAVhRPuTbK77laMDpUNVNEM1c1RDMYtEdMSzZTTDU4MDVSSjZJMi4u

First test schedule:

Please come to school reception where you will be directed to the testing area.

Wednesday 1st Sept 2021		
09.00 - 10.00	Year 7 - Mrs Lewis	Year 7 - Mrs Wise
10.00 - 11.00	Year 7 - Mrs Dunderdale	Year 7 - Mr Robinson
11.00 - 12.00	Year 7 - Miss Compton	Year 7 - Miss Reeve
12.30 - 13.30	Year 12	
13.30 - 14.30	Year 13	
14.30 - 15.30	Year 10 & 11 Prefects	

Thursday 2nd Sept 2021		
09.00 - 10.00	8SB	8IB
10.00 - 11.00	8LO	8DO (was BX)
11.00 - 12.00	8RB	8TO
12.30 - 13.30	9WD (was CD)	9SE
13.30 - 14.30	9HM	9GD
14.30 - 15.30	9WR	9GI (was BB)

Friday 3rd Sept 2021		
09.00 - 10.00	10GE	10FS
10.00 - 11.00	10ON	10MF
11.00 - 12.00	10SR	10PG
12.30 - 13.30	11KE	11MA
13.30 - 14.30	11HR	11PT (was RT)
14.30 - 15.30	11WM	11KF

What if a test result is positive?

Please assume all results are negative. Parents of students who test positive will be informed by staff via telephone about their results asap and for the second test, parents will be asked to collect their child. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will then 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?

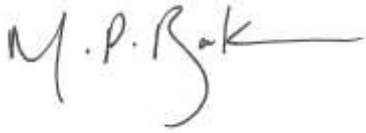
They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if 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 students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01473 726178 or email general@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Matt Baker

Headteacher



01473 726178



general@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk



www.st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk



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