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Cottingham High School
and Sixth Form College



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Dear Parents/Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

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 devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help students and staff to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those currently attending school to be tested.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet/diagram with further information.

What if someone tests positive?

If a participant tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. These tests can be booked by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. During this time while they wait for the PCR test and subsequent result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of participants may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Participants will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if staff or students have been in contact with someone who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school or NHS Test and Trace and will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.



What if staff or students develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms, known as asymptomatic. If staff or students develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

The availability of Lateral Flow Testing is not a passport to changing our behaviours – we should still stick rigorously to the Hands, Face, Space mantra.

We will notify you with further details on when our testing centre will be open and accessible to our staff and learners and the arrangements for accessing a test. We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions via covid@cottinghamhigh.net

Yours sincerely



Loz Wilson
Headteacher



