

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Following our recent communications, I am writing today regarding the Covid-19 tests that we will be offering to all students at school that are eligible to attend school during the National Lockdown.

We are asking for your permission for your young person to be tested w/c 25th January 2021, and over the next half term whilst the National Lockdown is in place.

The government has asked secondary schools to offer Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests,' that provide a result within half an hour. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms, so by introducing testing we will improve our ability to stop the virus from spreading within school.

As you know we have implemented lots of protective measures at the Academy to reduce the risk (hand washing, year group bubbles, remote learning), and we welcome these tests as an additional protective measure that will help keep everyone safe.

The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible. Please visit our website and select the Covid 19 area on the right, at the top, to see how easy it is for your young person to take the test and read all of our guidance.

Your young person will be asked to take a test from Monday 25th January.

This testing is only for those who have no symptoms. If your child is symptomatic, they must take a test at a Covid Test Centre or at home and if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case they must self isolate for 10 days. As ever, it is important that we are made aware of this, so please email office@oasisimmingham.org or telephone 01469 573677

What do I need to do now?

1. Please visit our website and look at the Covid 19 area and share this with your young person to explain what will happen.

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2. Please read the additional information on 'How will our process work?' at the end of this letter for more details on how we will handle different situations so you are fully informed.
3. Please <https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid> to read the information on consent and our privacy notice.
4. If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your young person to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation on Monday 25th January. Please fill in the attached form, and return it to the Academy via your child.

We are urging all families to consider their decision carefully and fully research all of the information available. If you do not give your permission, your young person should attend school as normal and continue to follow all other safety precautions. Should they come into contact with a confirmed case, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you would like to discuss anything further using the email:

office@oasisimmingham.org

Yours sincerely,



Principal, Oasis Academy Immingham

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Covid-19 Testing within school

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested w/c 25th January. The government have asked us to test them 3 days apart when we first do this and then once per week after this.
- Staff will be tested twice per week, with their consent.
- Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.
- Should a student or staff member receive a positive test, they will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day. You should call 119 to book a follow-up test. Once they have had the further test, they will need to self-isolate while they await the result. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.
- Should a student or staff member receive a negative test, they will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student 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 may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.
- Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show that the tests are accurate in identifying a case. 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.

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What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self isolate for 10 days. Further details will be provided at the time, but if your young person would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, they can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your young person 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated [DD/MM/YYYY].
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.

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| Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print) | |
| Year group (if applicable) | |
| Name of parent or guardian if under 16 (print) | |
| Signature | |
| Date | |
| Relationship to child if under 16 | |

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