

Monday, 06 December 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

January 2022 COVID-19 testing for staff and students
(Please note, this letter contains important hyperlinks.)

As you may be aware, asymptomatic testing on site, will resume in the spring term (January) for all education workforce staff in Early Years, primary, secondary and FE settings as well as for students of secondary age and above.

By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to Rooks Heath School to be tested.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in [this online form](#).

Testing days for students will take place on **Tuesday 4th January** and **Wednesday 5th January**. The first day of the Spring term, when students are required to be in school for learning will therefore be **Thursday 6th January 2022**. More details will follow regarding the specific timings for students.

Plan for testing

Staff are encouraged to test twice-weekly starting the evening or day before the return to school.

Secondary schools and colleges have been asked to offer students one LFD test at an on-site Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS) and then encourage families to continue with twice weekly home testing. Following the initial on-site test, students will be able to collect their home test kits and continue twice weekly testing at home.

The results of the home testing must be sent into the school as well as reported to the NHS. Please report the results of your Lateral Flow Test in two places:

NHS Test and Trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Rooks Heath School: [Report LFD test to Rooks Heath school](#)

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and 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 should that be the case. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system using the number registered with the NHS when reporting. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with helpful instructions and further information.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow the student will need to self-isolate immediately and you must order a [confirmatory PCR test](#). The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, the student must follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the student can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the student should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to resume school from their first day of the spring term as well as any other normal activities. Students 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 close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Whilst waiting for the PCR test result, staff who do not need to isolate and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.

However, if you live in the same household as someone who has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, these conditions do not apply, and you must stay at home and self-isolate. [NHS Test and Trace will contact you if this is the case.](#)

Please note that on the 2nd December 2021, new guidance for close contacts was issued. You can access more information here: [Guidance for contacts of people with 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 test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.



Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If a child has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in the return to school testing.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact us using contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk or on by calling the Attendance Line or the School Office.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Manderson
Headteacher