

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and student

Dear Parent or guardian,

We are working to keep Mulberry Stepney Green School as safe as possible. 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 tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, 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 test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and secondary school age students who want to participate from week commencing 4th January 2022.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete and submit by **Wednesday 15th December 2021 to the Form tutor.**

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. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will 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). 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.

A High Performing Specialist School

Headteacher: Mr. Paramjit Bhutta

What happens if the test is negative?

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 of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

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 0207 790 6361 or email mail@stepneygreen.towerhamlets.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Paramjit Bhutta
Headteacher

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NHS Test and Trace consent form for Covid-19 LFT 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.
1. **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.
 2. I consent to having my child a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
 3. I consent that my child's sample will be tested for the presence of Covid-19.
 4. I understand that if my child's results are negative on the lateral flow test, I will not be contacted by the school except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive case.
 5. I consent that they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
 6. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this test, I will report to the school a confirmed test result following a PCR test.
 7. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive, my child will continue to be tested daily for 7 days on the LFT and continue to attend the school.

Name of pupil/student to be tested	
Year/Form Group	
Name of Parent/Carer (if under 16)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	

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