

8th January 2020

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students

Dear Parent/Carer

You will 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 Academy.

By putting testing in place the national objective is to help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission.

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all students who attend the Academy site from Monday 11th January.

In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in the Academy can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in 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. Parents/Carers will also be informed of any positive results.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the Academy and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards.

During the time while waiting for the PCR 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 pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in [school/college] who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by

NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

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>.

Consent

You will be sent a separate Google Form to complete to give your consent for your child to be tested as part of the programme.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact via the email address covid@theaxholmeacademy.com.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Keogh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail.

D Keogh
Principal