



24 February 2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students**

Dear Parent or Carer,

The following letter provides further information about the testing programme at George Spencer Academy to support all students returning to school on the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. 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. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

### **Plan for testing**

We will be looking to test all students as they return to school on the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. You will receive further information regarding students return early next week.

### **How the tests work**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. 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. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. A text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system will be sent to the number/email address included on the consent form (link below). Tests are free of charge and I enclose a list of frequently asked questions with further information.

### **Consent**

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the Google consent form on the link below. The form will need to be completed by 3pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. You will need to complete a form for each child. We will be unable to test your child if this form has not been completed. Attached to this letter is a privacy notice outlining how personal data will be used.

**Please be aware that if you have already provided consent for your child to be tested as part of our in-school offer, this consent form will still need to be completed.**

<https://forms.gle/YQ5QjK5qyx5pnjvS9>

If you agree for your child to be tested and complete the consent form, you will receive an email next week with further information about our testing process including specific appointment times for your child.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Does my child have to test?

Testing is voluntary and your child will be allowed to attend school if they do not take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

### What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days 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 return to school and resume lessons as normal. 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?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

### 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>

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Jonathan Dakers  
Assistant Principal