
24 February 2021

Dear families,

Further to my last correspondence, we are now in a position to update you as to our testing plans. I quote directly from the Department for Education;

'After an initial programme of 3 tests in school or college, pupils will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Secondary school and college staff will also continue to be provided with two tests to use each week at home.'

In order to maximise safety for our school community, we plan to begin testing before school opens. This is also to minimise the time we would spend teaching and testing simultaneously and to avoid cross contamination in corridors (and bubbles collapsing as a result), we plan to begin testing this coming Monday 1 March and to do as many tests as possible before pupils are back on site from Monday 8th March. Details are overleaf.

To be precise, we want to test in advance of the 8th for two main reasons:

1. **Safety** – if pupils have already had one or more tests ahead of the 8th then there is a reduced chance of a child circulating the virus in school. This is why the return to school guidance from January expected schools to test children twice before returning.
2. **Learning** – if we can test ahead of the 8th then we can resume in-person teaching for all pupils then, rather than lose learning time in that week.

For us, the salient points are as follows;

- We need to test all pupils three times, three to five days apart
- Pupils are able to return to lessons after their first negative test
- Every (consenting) pupil should have 3 on-site tests.

If you have not yet completed the consent form (sent 1 January) and you would like your child to be tested, please complete the link below. We can only test those who have consented.

[Consent for testing link](#)

The registration process is quite labour intensive with mobile phone numbers, addresses and email addresses needed. Therefore we intend to use the NHS bulk upload process with the details required from the information you have already provided meaning that your child won't have to and will simply need to arrive at school as per the following schedule.

Schedule

In order that we can process mass testing we will be starting this process in the week prior to all pupils' return on Monday 8th March. We are operating a system whereby pupils should turn up to be tested according to their year group and surname as follows:

Date	Time	Session	Group (Surname)
Monday 1st March	0830-1000	1	Year 7 A-K
	1040-1200	2	Year 7 L-Z
	1310-1430	3	Year 11 A-K
	1430-1530	4	Year 11 L-Z
Tuesday 2nd March	0830-1000	1	Year 8 A-H
	1040-1200	2	Year 8 I-Z
	1310-1430	3	Year 10 A-L
	1430-1530	4	Year 10 M-Z
Wednesday 3rd March	0830-1000	1	Year 9 A-H
	1040-1200	2	Year 9 I-Z
Thursday 4th March	0830-1000	1	Year 7 A-K
	1040-1200	2	Year 7 L-Z
	1310-1430	3	Year 11 A-K
	1430-1530	4	Year 11 L-Z
Friday 5th March	0830-1000	1	Year 8 A-H
	1040-1200	2	Year 8 I-Z
	1310-1430	3	Year 10 A-K
	1430-1530	4	Year 10 L-Z

Note: Pupils will be in on a full time basis from Monday 8th March. The remaining tests will be conducted during the school day meaning all year groups will have the three tests by Friday 12th March.

How are the tests being run?

We have set up a dedicated area of the school for conducting Lateral Flow tests (LFD). The tests will be administered by the pupils themselves. The testing process will be run by a mixture of school staff, specialist agency staff, and, in some cases, volunteers.

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. Staff will oversee the swab process.

The results of each test will be sent from the NHS to your personal email address and via text message.

On the test day

- Pupils may attend in non school uniform to be tested but must be wearing a face covering (unless exempt) upon entry to the school.
- We ask that only pupils enter the site via the main gate and staff will direct from there ensuring they will follow the one way system.
- As with a normal school day, there is no parking on site. We are still operating a school day for our vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers.
- We ask you to remind your children to adhere to social distancing measures when travelling to and from school.
- If your child has a live lesson during the test time, they will be excused from the lesson.

Home testing

Both pupils and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to self swab and test themselves twice a week once school has re-opened. Staff and pupils must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and pupils should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with their school to help with contact tracing. We will share more details on how to do this in due course.

Adolescents aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary. Children aged 11 attending a secondary school should be tested by an adult.

More details around the home testing kits will be provided when we receive them.

Face coverings in secondaries

The government has advised that staff and pupils wear face coverings at all times when they are not able to socially distance. This includes classrooms. We already have rules in place around face coverings from the Autumn term.

I'd like to thank you again for your forbearance and support. We are very keen to see our pupils again.

As always, should you have any queries, please contact ca-office@inspirationtrust.org.

Best wishes,

Darren Hollingsworth

