

8th December 2021

Lateral flow testing

Dear Parent/Carer,

The DfE has asked schools to offer onsite lateral flow testing to students upon their return to school in January 2022.

This asymptomatic testing will help to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. Those who test positive will be required to self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus. I am therefore encouraging all students to be tested.

Students will return to school at the normal time on Wednesday 5th January and will be tested during the first day. On this occasion we will be using the Orient Gene tests which require a nasal swab only. No throat swab is required. Students will administer the test themselves under the supervision of trained staff and the results will be available around 20 minutes later. We will inform the student of a positive test and where participants are under 16, parents/carers will also be informed.

If you have already completed the consent form, this is still valid, and you are not required to complete it again. If you would like your child to participate but have not yet completed the form, please do so by clicking the link below. This form will expire on 31st December 2021, consent by email will not be accepted after this date. If you wish to **remove consent**. You can do so by emailing consent@corbytechnicalschool.org.

Click here to complete the [consent form](#).

You will find some more details regarding the lateral flow test on the next page. We will support our students throughout, but please contact us on enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S H Young
School Business Manager

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. The results are available around 20 minutes after the test is taken. The school will inform the student immediately of a positive test result. Parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system will be sent to all participants as soon as practicably possible using the contact details on our school information management system.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and will be asked to arrange for a confirmation PCR test as soon as possible. The student should isolate until the PCR result is known. If the result of the PCR is positive your child should continue to isolate and all other members of the household should follow the [stay at home guidance](#).

If the result of the PCR test is negative the child and the household and resume normal activities.

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 stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

Students can assume they have a negative test unless they are advised otherwise. Parents or guardians will be informed of negative test results via email as soon as practicably possible.

What if students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

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, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

If your child is a close contact of someone with the Omicron variant, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and be required to isolate for 10 days.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The 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 www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test