



2 January 2020

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

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are working to keep Sharples School as safe as possible. Following guidance and direction from the Department for Education (DfE), all schools are to remain open in the north of England and students to return on key dates highlighted in my recent letter to you all. 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 aim to be testing all staff and students who want to participate, early in January 2021, and before they return for classroom learning.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please click on the link in the covering email and complete the form in full (one for each child you have at the school). By completing this form online, you are consenting to your child being tested in lieu of completing the consent form (see Page 3 of this letter). In line with DfE guidance and to allow us to set this up for next week, please complete this as soon as possible and by **Wednesday, 6 January** at the latest. If you are unable to click on the link, please complete the attached form and return to school by **Wednesday, 6 January** at the latest. The link can also be found on the school website.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff.

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.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Headteacher Ms A. Webster: headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

Sharples School, A Multi Academy Trust, A Private Limited Company by guarantee.

Registered Company No: 09677469 Registered office address: Sharples School, Hill Cot Road, Bolton, BL1 8SN



What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students 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). We 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. **You must inform school of the result by emailing office@sharplesschool.co.uk**

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 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 for 10 days 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>.

Once again, thank you for your continued support for our school, it is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully



Ann Webster

Headteacher

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Registration - To process the test, we will register all participating pupils. **Please complete the online form wherever possible. Only complete this if you do not have access to the internet.** To complete this registration please fill in the form below and complete the consent statement at the bottom of the letter.

First Name	
Last Name	
Date of Birth	
Gender at birth	
Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?	
Today's date	
Home Postcode	
Email Address	
Mobile Number	

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of pupils 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.
 - **Staff** will complete this form themselves.
1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated [31/12/2020].
 2. 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.
 3. I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
 4. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
 5. I understand that if my child's test is 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.
 6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
 7. I consent that they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
 8. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
 9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but my child has tested negative, they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 days.

Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print)	
Year group (if applicable)	
Name of parent or guardian if under 16 (print)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	

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