

Dear Parent/Carer

Lateral testing for Secondary and sixth form pupils

You will have seen through the news that schools are going to be able to test secondary aged staff and pupils for COVID19. The tests are called 'lateral flow tests' and give the results within 30minutes. We are setting this up at The Dales School.

The tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school more safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spreading. The test is voluntary.

We will be testing all staff and secondary and sixth form aged pupils who want to participate, we will do this as soon as staff training is completed and when we have all the resources needed.

Teachers and other staff will be able to have routine testing once a week; pupils will undertake two tests at the beginning of each term; pupils and staff will be able to do 'serial testing' if one of their contacts test positive.

The testing process:

Pupils and staff who take the test, will have to do the test themselves and they will have to insert a 'swab' to the back of their throat and rub the area around their tonsils, the swab will need to be in their mouth for around ten seconds. To be most effective, they will then need to insert the same 'swab' up to 2.5cm up their nose and twist it around. The process may be uncomfortable. All of the procedures will be supervised by school staff; however, the pupils will have to do the test themselves, staff can reassure pupils and instruct them how to do it.

Close contact testing:

Those staff and pupils who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID19, can either remain in isolation at home for 10 days or choose to come into school and receive a test each day. On days when they are unable to take the test, they must remain in isolation (eg. weekends).

Consent:

We need you to give permission for your child to participate (below), if you are happy for your child/young person to be tested, complete this and submit a return to us. I would suggest that you discuss this with your child/young person and we will not force anyone to take the test and children/young person choose not to take it, even if you have given consent. Pupils can still access school if they don't take a test or are unsuccessful in testing themselves. By giving consent you are also consenting for us to use your mobile telephone number in the registration process for your child/young person. You will receive notification of the result directly to your phone.

What if a pupil tests positive?

We will contact parents/carers directly if a pupil tests positive, you will need to collect them from school and we will isolate the pupil away from others.

Pupils who test positive will need to take a further 'PCR test' at home (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You will collect these from school when you collect your child/young person.

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.

What happens if the test is negative?

Pupils and staff will be able to stay in school. If you do not hear you can assume that the test was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact/serial testing at school/college 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 as per the national guidelines.

Please note where a pupil/staff member is undertaking 'serial testing' due to being in close contact with a positive person the following applies:

- The pupil/staff member must go directly to the test centre within school and immediately undertake; they **MUST NOT** enter the rest of the school until they have tested negative.
- If the pupil refuses to undertake the test the pupil **MUST** be immediately collected from school and remain at home for the rest of the isolation period; 2 consecutive void results will also require the pupil to remain at home.
- Testing for pupils is subject to staff availability so arrangements for testing must be made in advance.
- Close contact testing does not apply where a member of the family/social bubble tests positive – all members of that household will need to isolate

What if my child/young person develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child/young person 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01609 772932.

Yours sincerely

Ann-Marie Ellis
Headteacher

Consent form

Introduction

This consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff 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 participate in testing.
- **Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the attached letter and the Privacy Notice (published on School Website).
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 having / my child having a nose and throat swab for lateral flow tests. In the case of under 16s or pupils who are not able to provide informed consent, I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate and self-swab.
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my /my child's result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where I am / they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I/my child is removed from school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I/they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
8. I also confirm that if the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I will arrange for them to undertake a PCR test (test can be provided by the school). I will follow the instructions on the PCR Kit and ensure that they are sent off on the same day to the NHS Test and Trace Laboratory.

9. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.

10. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

11. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.

First Name	
Last Name	
Year group (if applicable)	
Date of Birth	
Gender – this information is needed for Department for Health and Social Care research purposes.	Male/Female
Ethnicity - this information is needed for Department for Health and Social Care research purposes.	Asian or Asian British Black, African, Black British or Caribbean Mixed or multiple ethnic groups White Prefer not to say
Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?	
Home Postcode	
Email Address – this is where test results will be sent	
Mobile Number – this is where test results will be sent. Please do not put a landline number – you can only receive test results to a mobile number.	
Name of parent/guardian giving consent	
Relationship to test subject	
Signature (typing out your name is sufficient if you are filling in this form digitally)	
Today's date	
Details of any health or accessibility issues which might affect a child's safe participation in the testing exercise.	

