



# WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

*Pride In Achievement*

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Dear Parent/Carer,

## NHS Test & Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Students on Return to School

As you know, the government has announced that students will begin returning to face-to-face learning in school from the 8th March. We have set out more details of what we know about this at the moment in a separate email.

As part of this return to school, the government has asked the school to use our onsite testing facility to test all students for Covid-19. They will be asked to take three separate tests, 3-5 days apart. We will begin this programme on each student's first day back at school. We need your consent for this testing to take place.

Up to one third of people who have Covid-19 are asymptomatic. The aim of this testing programme is to screen students for asymptomatic cases and thus reduce transmission on our return to school. I am therefore strongly encouraging all parents to consent to testing in school so that we can maintain a safe environment for all students and staff currently in school, and the wider community.

We are not able to give specific dates and times when the testing will take place yet. We may begin testing before students begin to return on 8th March, and may ask your child to attend the school site to be tested before their first day back, but we will notify you of the specific details in due course.

## How the Tests Work

I enclose a leaflet with further information on what happens on the day of the test. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained school staff and trained volunteers. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy to undertake. Students are asked to swab their nose and throat and this swab is then processed on the school site in around 30 minutes.

Where the result of the test is negative, parents will receive an email and text message from the NHS system once the test has been processed. Where the result is positive, we will inform the parent and student directly before we upload the result to the NHS system, so you should hear from us first in those circumstances.

## Consent for Testing

Testing is not compulsory and requires parental consent for those under 16. No student under 16 will be tested without parental consent and the contact details for the results will be those of the parent.

Students who are 16 or over can give their own consent in law to be tested. However, we would still like to ask for parental consent. If a student who is 16 or over presents for testing and we do not have parental consent, we will ask them if they consent themselves. If they do, we will ask them to register for the test themselves using their own smartphone and contact details.



We will use the data that we already hold about the student and you to upload data to the NHS system so that parents can be informed of the test results. The form below contains a link to the privacy notice which explains in full how we will use your and your child's data.

**If you would like to give your consent for your child to be tested in school each week, then please complete the electronic form [HERE](#). Please complete this as soon as possible, and at the latest by Friday 26th February.**

If you have previously given consent for testing at school as your child has attended mini-school, please complete the form again so that we have a complete record for this new testing programme.

### **What If My Child Tests Positive?**

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they and their parents will be informed immediately by us and may need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. If this is needed, it should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. The student will need to self-isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the positive test. We will also track any close contacts in school and inform them to isolate.

### **What If My Child Tests Negative?**

Students who test negative will be able to continue with their activities as normal. We will not specifically tell them that their test is negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, and if so we will ask them to come back to the testing area to complete another test.

### **What If My Child Has Been in Close Contact with Someone Who Tests Positive?**

The student and their parent will be notified by us if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive. They will then be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. The government has paused their scheme of daily serial testing of close contacts to enable them to remain in school. This may change in the future if the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) confirm that daily serial testing of close contacts is safe.

### **What If My Child Develops Symptoms?**

This testing programme 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 visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

### **And Finally**

I would like to remind you that all those involved in testing onsite have received all the relevant training, and are either school staff or volunteers supervised by school staff. All have appropriate DBS checks in place.

**No tests will be carried out on students under 16 without your consent and you are free not to give consent if you wish.** Students who are not tested will not be prevented from attending school unless they are showing symptoms of Covid-19 or have been identified as close contacts of someone who has tested positive.

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

Yours sincerely,



Steven Hogan  
Headteacher