

Allerton Grange School



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Allerton Grange School
 @Allerton_Grange

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Our Ref: LSa/BMa

Dear Parent or Guardian

Re: COVID-19 testing for students on their return to school

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school later this term.

You will soon receive further information about the timeline for students returning to the classroom. However, before they return, we will be looking to test students using Lateral Flow Tests. Following the completion of this testing programme, you will receive further information about testing your son/daughter at home, using a home testing kit.

Our testing programme will begin on 8 March. This letter is to provide you with more information about the testing programme at Allerton Grange School.

Consent

In order to carry out tests, we need to collect your consent if your son/daughter is under 16. Students over 16 can give their own consent, having discussed participation with their parent/guardian if under 18. The consent form differs from the one we asked you to complete in December as it collects more details required by NHS Test and Trace. If your son/daughter has been accessing provision in school during this period of lockdown and you returned this consent form in January, you do not need to complete this form again.

Testing is voluntary but those eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate. If you (and your child) agree for your child to be tested, they will receive an appointment, from 8 March onwards, to come into school to be tested. If they test negative they will be allowed to join their year group when they return to lessons. If they test positive, they will be required, by law, to self-isolate and follow NHS Test and Trace guidance.

This letter provides information on how the tests work. There is also a document outlining how your child's data will be used as part of this process. Please read both documents before completing the consent form. To give your consent, please click [Testing Consent Form](#) and complete the online form. If you have more than one child at the school, a separate form is required for each student. If your son/daughter is over-16, he/she can complete this form themselves.

Please return this information to us by **5pm on Monday 1 March** to allow us to assign your son/daughter an appointment for the week commencing 8 March.



SCHOOL
MEMBER



What happens if you or your child does not consent to being tested?

If you or your child do not consent to your child being tested, you do not need to complete this form. It will not prevent your son/daughter from returning to school along with the rest of their year group.

What will happen when you have given your consent?

You will receive an appointment slot for your son/daughter, via text/email, at least 24 hours before the appointment. Students will be asked to come into school for their appointment and return straight home afterwards.

Parents will not be permitted to accompany students to their appointment, except in exceptional circumstances, which must be agreed with the school in advance. We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some young people, particularly those with SEND, and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by contacting our SENCo, Mrs M Child, and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability).

Those taking the test will be supervised and guided by trained Allerton Grange staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat.

Receiving the results of the Lateral Flow Test

If the student is under 16, results of the test will be sent within 24 hours from the online NHS system to the mobile and email address that you submit on the consent form. If the student is 16 or over, they will receive the result to their email/mobile number submitted on the consent form.

Tests are free of charge.

What happens if a student tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and will need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. The parent/student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive result from the online NHS system. When they have completed the period of self-isolation, they can return to school.

What happens if the test is negative?

There may be a small number of students who need to repeat the test (if the first test was invalid or void for some reason). Students who test negative will be able to return to school on the day their year group returns (further details to follow).

What if your child develops symptoms or is symptomatic on the day of the test?

This testing programme is for people with **no symptoms**. **Students should not attend their appointment in school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19**. 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 <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our students throughout this process, but please contact us at agadmin@allertongrange.com if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Lucy Saunders
Deputy Headteacher