



FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Headteacher – Ms E Ellis BA, MA

Our ref: EES/SCR

2nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students

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 devices.' This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme here at Fearnhill School.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested. We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents/carers may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained Fearnhill staff. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat. For those who are unable to self-swab please refer to the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information about options. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

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 will be informed of negative test results via text or email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. They will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. The option of daily testing does not apply to household members or close contacts of a positive case outside of school, who will still need to self-isolate.

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 (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>.

Please complete and submit the consent form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YiHZD7OPVtEiD48KOdgXpV6SA5nc5zWJ90-1FLDYn0/edit> ensuring you have read and understood the attached privacy notice, by Friday 12th February.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office via email: admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully



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Headteacher

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