



8th January 2021

Covid-19 Testing at Plymouth High School for Girls

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised in my recent letter, I wanted to update you on our plans to implement Covid-19 testing, for students and staff within our school.

This week, as we welcome back our vulnerable students and students of critical workers, we will begin testing all staff and students who want to participate, using COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Extending this as more students return in following weeks.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests can help staff and students 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 and as we continue to take decisions in the best interests of our students, we hope you are fully supportive of this programme as it will help students to remain learning in school and I would encourage all pupils and staff to take part.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please:

- Read the instructional leaflet with further information (attached)

Complete the consent form (one per pupil) using

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJpR8LJRH_F5Hn9v3cGga5_5URTdSQUJLOFBGNjdGMjFBTk5OTENFMFJQSS4u

or print and return it to the school office.

Results take around half an hour from testing. We will only communicate positive results which will be shared directly with the pupil by a member of staff. Where participants are under-16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. Please ensure you complete the consent form if you are happy for your child to take a COVID-19 test. If you have any questions, please email these to phs@phsg.org

In the meantime, please see below some FAQs and continue to take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Simon Underdown
Headteacher

FAQs

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone 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 not, they will need to self-isolate 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 a pupil tests positive?

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in testing sites) to confirm the positive result, they will be able to do this at school or take a test kit home. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate until they get their result. If it is negative, the pupils can return to school.

If the result of this secondary test is positive, the pupil and household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines. **Please inform the school office as soon as you receive this test result. You will need to show your results to the school office.**

We will continue to support pupils with their education remotely. We recognise this may be disruptive for your family but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus.

What if a student tests 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 in the first 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative.

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 of change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Who administers the test?

The test will be self-administered and supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can assist with taking the swab.

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be informed.

Is there a cost?

Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

How do I register and give consent?

In order to process the test, we need to register and receive consent from all participating students. This must be done prior to any in-school testing. Please fill in this form

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s23q1ha_kkmgEHn2jjmNvJpR8LJRH F5Hn9v3cGga5_5URTdSOUJLOFBGNjdGMjFBTk5OTENFMFJOSS4u

How will you process this data?

For further information on how this information is obtained, retained and processed please refer to the Covid-19 Privacy notice: <https://www.tsatrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Covid-Testing-Privacy-Notice-January-2021.pdf>