



*together we aspire,
we discover,
we excel*

Lordswood Girls' School

Lordswood Girls' School
Knightlow Road
Birmingham
B17 8QB

Tel: 0121 429 2838

Facsimile: 0121 429 4840

Email: lgs-enquiry@lordswoodtrust.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. K. A. Cooney, BSc (Hons), MA

16th December 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

Dear Parent or Carer,

Asymptomatic testing will resume in the spring term for all secondary school students and staff. To facilitate this testing, the start of term will be staggered:

- Students in **Years 11 and 13** should return to school on **Tuesday 4th January 2022**
- Students in **Years 10 and 12** should return to school on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**
- Students in **Years 8 and 9** should return to school on **Thursday 6th January 2022**
- Students in **Year 7** should return to school on **Friday 7th January 2022**

Continued testing for COVID-19 is critical in helping to reduce the spread of the virus, especially in light of the new Omicron variant. I am therefore strongly encouraging students to participate in testing on returning to school to be tested. If you have previously provided consent for your daughter to be tested there is no need to provide consent again. Consent forms will be sent to parents of students who have not previously participated in testing.

Plan for testing

We are planning to offer students one Lateral Flow (LFD) test on return to school in the spring term. Staff are encouraged to test twice-weekly starting the evening or day before the return to school.

Following the initial on-site test, students will be able to collect their home test kits and continue twice weekly testing at home.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose. The school will inform the student and parent or legal guardian of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a confirmatory PCR test ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

RP11-3

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the student can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the student should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

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.

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

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

From 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Once notified by Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students are strongly recommended to take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [online reporting system](#) and to the school. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow [national guidance](#).

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>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by calling the main school number: 0121 429 2838.

Should my child still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if they have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If a child has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in the return to school testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Adamson
Deputy Headteacher