

## **LATERAL FLOW TESTING – STUDENT INFORMATION GUIDE**

We strongly support that as a school community, we must use all of the tools available to us to combat the transmission of COVID-19. These tools range from vaccination, symptomatic testing, improving medicines, self-isolation regulations and non-pharmaceutical interventions like hands-face-space. Asymptomatic testing is a further and critical tool to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

On its own, asymptomatic testing will not prevent the transmission of COVID-19 but used with the other tools available (to us) it will help us to:

- Identify and help to prevent staff and students without symptoms from transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly.
- Allow us to operate as safely as possible by self-isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as is practical.

Asymptomatic testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as 'Lateral Flow Device' (LFD) tests. They enable us to rapidly test students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. No test is 100% accurate, but when done as part of a testing regime is very good at picking up those with high viral loads (i.e. those that are the most contagious).

### **When will testing take place?**

A full schedule of testing will be circulated, which supports students having three initial lateral flow tests in our test centre based in the Sports Hall. Students should return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result (the following school day) and those not undergoing testing should attend school in line with our staggered return arrangements. Students will then have two further tests once back in school. Chase Terrace Academy will move to a home testing model for students which will be communicated to parents/carers separately.

### **Does my child have to have a test?**

Testing is not compulsory but strongly encouraged for the safety of all students, staff and visitors within our school community. Students who have had a positive test result in the last 90 days are not required to be tested, unless they choose to be.

### **What do I have to do for my child to have a test?**

It is important that all parents/carers refer to the schedule of testing and make arrangements for students to attend school on their designated day and time slot for their test. The programme of testing will be finalised once we know how many students will be tested.

Consent must be given for each student and this can be given via the electronic form that will be sent to all parents/carers via My Ed App.

- For students younger than 16 years - the form must be completed by the parent / carer.
- For students over 16 – they can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / carer if under 18.

All boxes must be completed in full and with accurate information as failure to do so will result in the test not taking place and the test result not being received via text or e-mail.

We ask that all parents/carers discuss the testing process with students (see below) so they are aware and well informed of what they will be required to do. We will be unable to test any student that arrives at the test centre and informs us that they do not want to be tested. Regardless of if parents/carers have given consent, the test will not be completed.

Students should not attend school at any time, including on the day of their lateral flow test, if they have symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste). Please ensure that you check this with your child on the morning of their test. If your child has symptoms they should not attend and a 'PCR' laboratory test should be arranged instead.

### **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 and throat. Results take around half an hour from testing and are free of charge.

No later than 24 hours after the test has been completed, NHS Test and Trace will send you an e-mail and text message (based on the contact details you provide on the consent form) with the test result. The school will only notify parents/carers and students of a positive lateral flow test result.

### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a student tests positive with a lateral flow device, we will notify parents/carers and the student immediately.

Individuals and their household with a positive lateral flow test result will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

### **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, those with a negative lateral flow test can continue to attend school unless they have individually been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact). They should continue to apply the measures in the system of controls to themselves and the wider school setting.

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

We will take swift action in the event of a positive test result, or if notified that someone who has attended school has tested positive for coronavirus. We will continue to work closely with the dedicated advice service introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. They work with us and guide us through the actions we need to take. Based on their advice, we will send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate immediately and for the next 10 full days counting from the day after contact with the individual who tested positive.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at Chase Terrace Academy 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 school community through the full opening of our school from 8 March 2021. Please contact us if you have any questions via e-mail to [office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk).