

LATERAL FLOW TESTING - INFORMATION GUIDE

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

You may have heard that in addition to testing at home over the Christmas break, all secondary students returning to school in January 2022 will be offered one onsite test. The test kits used will be 'Orient Gene – Lateral Flow Devices'. This guide is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Chase Terrace Academy.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread within our community through asymptomatic transmission. Testing at Chase Terrace Academy will be on a voluntary basis and we will not prevent any student from accessing school if they do not wish to be tested.

What do I have to do so my child can be tested?

Parents/carers must provide consent for their child to be tested. We will be unable to test your child unless the consent form is completed, which will be used to register your child's test result for you to receive a text/email notification from the online NHS system. The link to complete the consent form will be sent to parents/carers via My Ed App.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and/or volunteers. Orient Gene test kits will be used which are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose only. Results take 15 minutes from testing.

Chase Terrace Academy will inform the student or member of staff of a positive test result immediately. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed immediately. A text/email notification of a positive or negative result will also be received from the online NHS system. Please note this may take up to 10 hours to arrive.

Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

Staff or students with a positive LFD test result must self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the student can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

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?

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). 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 a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep students in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is 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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

What happens after the onsite tests?

Chase Terrace Academy promotes home testing and the designated days for this to be completed by staff and students is Sunday and Wednesday evening.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions via e-mail to office@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk.