



THE DEAN TRUST Ashton on Mersey School

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Executive Headteacher: Mr Andrew Shakos
Headteacher: Mr Lee McConaghie

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing for Staff and Students

Dear Parents/Carers

As we return to school from March 8th, we will begin our asymptomatic testing programme using the COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices' (LFDs). All pupils for whom we have received consent will be tested three times in the first two weeks (Year 7 on the Monday of the third week), with a gap of 3-5 days between tests. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Ashton on Mersey School.

How the tests work

Pupils will self-swab, supervised by trained staff. The subsequent processing of the sample will be done by further trained staff. The LFD tests are easy to undertake, using a swab of your throat and nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be stored securely on our internal database but also uploaded to the NHS Test and Trace (T&T) platform. You have consented for us to do this.

Detailed information about the time your child should arrive to school on their first day, where to go and guidance on how to take the test follows in this letter. Please do take the time to read through this with your child so that the testing programme can be undertaken as smoothly and safely as possible. We understand that some pupils may be anxious about the tests and we are committed to conduct them professionally and sensitively. We have already carried out over 1000 tests with our keyworkers' children and staff on-site since January: all staff involved have been fully trained to do so.

Please take the time to watch this short [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#), which will prepare your child for the test.

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops coronavirus 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 through the NHS by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If your child is self-isolating at the time of the test, please do not send your child to school and let us know in the usual manner for reporting absence.

What are the implications of the result?

A **negative** test allows your child to continue in school as normal. When your child returns home on the day of the test they will have a card with the details (a barcode) of their test kit and a QR code which allows you share

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personal details with the NHS T&T, and link your child to their test result. The instant you complete this registration, the mobile number or email address you provide will receive a confirmation of the test result.

If your child were to test **positively** we would contact you immediately for them to be collected. Your child and the household will be expected to follow the current Public health self-isolation guidelines.

A very small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the result is **invalid or void** for some reason. This will be done immediately so that pupils remain within the testing timescales.

What if my child has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days?

If a student has tested positive on a PCR test in the last 90 days, they do not need to take an LFD test in school. If a pupil did choose to take a test and tested positive, they would have to self-isolate as usual.

What if I have not provided consent for my child to be tested onsite?

Whilst we are encouraging as many children as possible to take part in the testing programme in order to reduce transmission of this virus and make our school community as safe as possible, we recognise that the process is voluntary. If you decide that you do not want your child to participate, they are still entitled to attend school as normal. The current DfE guidance, however, is that children cannot transition to home testing if they have not completed the three on site tests.

These pupils return to school at 1.00pm on the same allocated day to their year group, but use the usual designated entrance that you have been reminded of in the recent letter from the Headteacher.

Where do pupils go on the first day, and what do they need to do?

All pupils being tested in all Year groups must enter through the rear car park entrance on Langley Road. Please only arrive at the time allocated to your tutor group. ***It is essential that they maintain the 2m distance from each other up to the point at which results are generated.*** Should anybody test positively, this means that we would not have to send home potentially large numbers of pupils who would be deemed as close contacts, and therefore also having to self-isolate as per government guidelines. It would be incredibly frustrating to have to do so on the first day of returning to school.

Pupils will be directed to the rear of the Sports Hall. We have a highly organised system in place that relies on all pupils conducting themselves sensibly and following some simple guidelines. We will hold all pupils in a socially distanced area until their result is processed, then they will be escorted back to their bubbles to commence face-to-face learning.

The table below shows the **day** of return for each year group, and the **time** that your child's tutor group is expected to arrive.

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Year 7-11

Time	Yr 11 Monday March 8 th	Yr 10 Tuesday March 9 th	Yr 9 Wednesday March 10 th	Yr 8 Thursday March 11 th	Yr 7 Friday March 12 th
9.00	11KRK	10STP	9MEF	8AMH	7DMG
9.15	11SUW	10MAR	9TRL	8IAM	7JIL
9.30	11GRD	10JED	9DAB	8LAE	7CHQ
9.45	11JUS	10ADD	9SRS	8PAC	7MAP
10.00	11DAS	10EMP	9PLS	8LNC	7LUP
-					
10.45	11LAR	10JOJ	9LIN	8AIP	7SRM
11.00	11HAD	10NAS	9IAT	8KAD	7ALC
11.15	11ELA	10ANH	9ANM	8JEH	7MAH
11.30	11LAF	10LAP	9TNE	8REH	7CLM
11.45	11JES	10SAS	9SUS	8YOL	7JOP

Example: 9DAB return at 9.30am on Wednesday, March 10th

Sixth Form

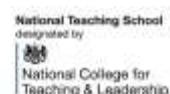
Time	Yr 13 Monday 8 th March	Yr 12 Tuesday March 9 th
12.30	Group1	Group1
12.45	Group2	Group2
1.00	Group3	Group3

Students will be informed which group they are in.

What will happen for the second and third onsite tests?

These will be spaced 3-5 days apart. Pupils will be withdrawn from lessons as a teaching group and escorted to the test venue by their teacher. They will not need to wait in a holding area for their result, but can return immediately to their lessons. We recognise that any positive result is likely to create a tracking of potential close contacts, but we will be encouraging social distancing in school as much as possible. The same process of registering your child's result against their test kit will apply on their return home.

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What are the arrangements for home testing?

Pupils are allowed to transition to home-testing having completed the three onsite tests. This is the phrase that the DfE have asked us to use. Pupils, therefore, cannot currently elect to participate in the home testing programme if they have not taken the tests in school. From March 22nd, we will be providing students with home testing kits, which contain 7 individual tests to be taken twice weekly. They will therefore be given out every 3 weeks. We are awaiting further information about these home testing kits, which we will share with you in due course.

Please use the link below to watch a virtual assembly for the pupils explaining the testing programme, which you may find useful:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HfoKGzsEfd1JhC5TWZmCeTM2tpFsmg_i/view

Yours sincerely,

Mr N Parry

Head of Teaching School & Testing Lead

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