



25th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Following our recent communications, I am writing today regarding the Covid-19 tests that we will be offering to all students at school that are eligible to attend school during the National Lockdown.

We are asking for your permission for your child to be tested from 28th January whilst they are accessing school during Lockdown, and over the next half-term whilst the National Lockdown is in place.

The government has asked secondary schools to offer Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests,' that provide a result within half an hour. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms, so by introducing testing we will improve our ability to stop the virus from spreading within school.

As you know we have implemented lots of protective measures at the Academy to reduce the risk (hand washing, year group bubbles, remote learning), and we welcome these tests as an additional protective measure that will help keep everyone safe.

The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible. Please see our website and select the Covid-19 area on the right, at the top, to see how easy it is for your young person to take the test and read all of our guidance.

Your child will be asked to take a test from Thursday 28th January. This testing is only for those who have no symptoms. If your child is symptomatic, they must take a test at a Covid Test Centre or at home or if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case they must self-isolate for 10 days. As ever, it is important that we are made aware if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 or is self-isolating as a result of being in close contact with someone with Covid-19. Please email us at oaw.admin@oasiswintringham.org or telephone 01472 871811.

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 OasisWintringham

Principal: Ms. H. Stennett

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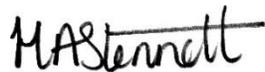
What do I need to do now?

1. Please visit our website and look at the Covid-19 area and share this with your young person to explain what will happen.
2. Please read the additional information on 'How will our process work?' at the end of this letter for more details on how we will handle different situations so you are fully informed.
3. Please visit <https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid> to read the information on consent and our privacy notice.
4. If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your child to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation ahead by Wednesday 27th January. Please fill in the attached form and return it to the Academy via your child.

We are urging all families to consider their decision carefully and fully research all of the information available. If you do not give your permission, your child should attend school as normal and continue to follow all other safety precautions. Should they come into contact with a confirmed case, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, as always, please contact us if you have any further questions or would like to discuss the testing by using the email:
oaw.admin@oasiswintringham.org

Yours sincerely,



Ms H Stennett
Principal

Covid-19 Testing within school

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested from Thursday 28th January.
- Staff will be tested twice per week.
- Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.
- Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.
- Should a student or staff member receive a positive test, they will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day. You should call 119 to book a follow-up test. Once they have had the further test, they will need to self-isolate while they await the result. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.
- Should a student or staff member receive a negative test, they will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.
- Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show that the tests are accurate in identifying a case. The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate for 10 days.

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 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>.

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

For pupils and students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the attached letter dated Monday 25th January 2021.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
4. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
5. I understand that if my child's results are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
7. I consent that they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
8. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive my child will self-isolate for 10 days in line with national guidance.

I confirm that I consent to all the statements above.	
Name of pupil	
Year group	
Name of parent or carer	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child	