



OCL/HST

21st July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 precautions at Oasis Academy Wintringham

I hope you and your family are well, and that you get to enjoy some time off together over the summer. We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to join the Academy in September, and today I am writing to you about our Covid-19 arrangements in the autumn term and asking for your support with asymptomatic testing.

As you may know, the Government has published new guidance for schools around Covid-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read the guidance here](#) or by searching 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance Step 4.'

Some of these precautions will be the same as those in place in your child's previous primary school, some are secondary specific, and some are changing over the summer break.

We want your child to have a great experience joining the academy, and this letter is to try and explain everything in place to avoid any undue concern.

What precautions will be in place in September?

Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We follow good hygiene around sneezing, using and then disposing tissues safely.

Cleaning

We have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning equipment and a focus on frequently touched areas.

Ventilation

We will ensure that the school is well ventilated.

Believe, Achieve, Succeed

 @OAWintringham #proudtobeOAW

 OasisWintringham

Principal: Ms. H. Stennett

Weelsby Avenue, Grimsby, N.E. Lincs., DN32 0AZ

Tel: 01472 871811 www.oasisacademywintringham.org

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COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Pupils and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of Covid, have had a positive test, or are required to quarantine. If a pupil shows symptoms at school, parents will need to collect them and request a test.

The household (including any symptoms) should follow the [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Risk assessments

Leaders at school will meet regularly to assess the risk at school. If necessary, and in consultation with Public Health England, we will be able to increase the precautions we have in place.

Bubbles

The government's advice explains that they are no longer recommending keeping children in consistent groups (or bubbles). This means that assemblies and lunch service can resume, and pupils will be able to use all the subject-specific classrooms.

As this is a recent update, we will spend some time over the summer considering what will work best for pupils moving around the academy.

It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to year group bubbles should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

As with your child's primary school, we have been conducting contact tracing this year if ever there was a confirmed case of Covid-19. In the Autumn schools will not be responsible for contact tracing. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will contact the family of the pupil with a confirmed case to identify who they have been in close contact with.

In addition, from September children under 18 will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test.

Face coverings

From September, the Government have explained that face coverings will no longer be advised for secondary students, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

As your child has been at primary school this year, they may not have worn a face covering this year or be used to wearing one.

Despite the Government's advice, we know that some staff and students may still want to continue to wear a face covering.

The new guidance requires us to be able to quickly move to all students wearing a face covering should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community and Public Health England advise us to.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing has been an important aspect of reducing the risk of infection spreading within secondary schools this year, and this is something that the Government requires in the Autumn Term.

The guidance explains that all secondary school pupils will receive 2, on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests. The first test will be on, or just before, their first day of school, and the second 3 to 5 days afterwards.

In addition to the onsite tests, pupils and staff are encouraged to continue to take two LFD tests each week at home in the new term until the end of September, when the government will review this.

As your child has been at primary school, they may not have taken a lateral flow test and certainly not at school. As you will know tests are simple to take but we want to ensure every pupil is comfortable.

Please see the additional information that I have included with this letter about asymptomatic testing, that asks for your consent. We must receive your consent for your child to take a LFD test, and we encourage every student and family to consider this request carefully. The tests provide an additional protection that helps us to reduce the risk of Covid-19 amongst our school community.

If you wish your child to be tested when they join us in September, **please give your consent within the Parental Consent section of MCAS (My Child At School)**. If you are not currently familiar with this, MCAS is an online portal for parents that enables you to view your child's performance and other information in real time, via the website or mobile app.

Please see our website for further information:

<https://www.oasisacademywintringham.org/academy-life/mychildatschool-mcas>

You have been emailed your log-in details which will enable you to register on MCAS. If you have an existing child already at OAW, your log-in will be the same. Click on the photograph or the text to change the views allowing information to be viewed with just one single login.

Please note we cannot test your child without prior consent being obtained.

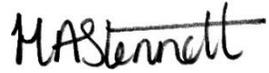
Please also note that consent needs to be given for 'each' child you have in school.

We are of course pleased that the Government says it is safe to begin reducing some of the COVID-19 precautions, however we need everyone to continue to take the pandemic seriously. As at your child's primary school, they must only come to school if they are well, and everyone is responsible for following all precautions that remain in place.

We hope this this letter is helpful in providing you and your child with a comprehensive explanation of what precautions we have in place.

I wish you a relaxing and happy summer, and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H Stennett". The "H" is large and stylized, with a horizontal line extending from its top bar across the "S" and "t".

Ms H Stennett

Principal

COVID-19 testing for students

We are asking for your permission for your young person to be tested twice at school, at the beginning of the Autumn term.

The tests are 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 testing we improve our ability to stop the Covid-19 from potentially spreading within school.

We are also asking for all those students and staff who consent to continue taking LFTs regularly at home.

The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible. Please see [the leaflet online here](#), to see how easy it is for your young person to take the test.

What do I need to do now?

1. Please read the information on 'How will our process work?'
2. Please read the accompanying NHS Test and Trace leaflet called 'How to do your test' and share this with your child to explain what will happen.
3. 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, please consent ahead of the start of the autumn term in September.
4. Please confirm if you give you consent for each of your children to be tested in school via MCAS as explained above.

We are urging all families to agree to these safe and quick tests in September. If you do not give your permission, your young person should attend school as normal and continue to follow all other safety precautions.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. Please contact us by email oaw.admin@oasiswintringham.org

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested twice when they return to school in September, the second test within 3-5 days of the first test.
- 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.
- Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, they should continue to self-isolate.
 - If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.
 - If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Should a student 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.
- 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 my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your young person 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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT