



George Stephenson
High School

9 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we near the end of a very successful first full week back, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. Attendance in all year groups been excellent. Our students clearly want to be here and they have been very mature and sensible at following the new updated protocols and procedures. They have all been very patient and understanding and it's great that they are all so positive about being in school.

Testing at home

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, it is vital to keep testing at home. Students will now be expected to conduct their tests at home and will be asked to test themselves twice a week.

We are sending home this week a pack of seven COVID-19 testing kits with all of our students. Please make sure your child tests themselves twice a week 3-5 days apart.

There is a set of instructions attached to this email and there is a video here to help you:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

We will be asking students to take their tests at the following times wherever possible:

- **Sunday between 4pm and 6pm**
- **Thursday evening (ideally between 4pm and 6pm)**

Reporting results

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

You should report your results to the NHS and also to school – there is a simple Microsoft Form for you to let us know the result of each test undertaken here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/UANS7yDKK7>

If your child tests positive however, as a matter of urgency, please contact the school by either telephone: 0191 216 115 or email: enquiries@gshs.org.uk to inform us of a positive result. You must also book a PCR test to confirm it is a positive LFD test.

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a [confirmatory PCR test](#) ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the pupil can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the pupil should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

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

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case

and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Whilst waiting for the PCR test result, children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.


What if my child develops symptoms?

This home testing programme 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>.

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If a child has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in the testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result.

Yours faithfully



IAN D WILKINSON - Headteacher