

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Lateral Flow/Rapid Testing - PUPILS**

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is taking place across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as lateral flow/rapid tests. This letter template and consent form below have been provided by the Department for Education to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

### **The Consent Form**

We ask that all parents complete the following form, letting us know whether you do or do not give consent for your child to be tested. Please complete one form per child: [NHS Test & Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing](#)

### **Plan for testing**

The government is looking to test all staff and secondary school and college age pupils as they return to school.

### **How the tests work**

Pupils taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a self-swab of the nose and throat. Pupils who test positive will be informed about their results immediately. Parents/carers will also be notified. Following this, parents will also receive a test result notification from the NHS system via text/email. Tests are free of charge and a helpful instruction leaflet from the NHS can be found here: [How to do your test COVID-19 instruction leaflet for schools](#)

### **Considerations for children with SEND**

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information: [Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings - GOV.UK](#)

### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.





## What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Following this, parents will also receive a test result notification from the NHS system via text/email.

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

The staff member or pupil will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

## 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 (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 by calling 119 or visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01748 833501 or email [enquiries@risedale.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@risedale.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Colin D Scott - Headteacher

## Useful Links:

- Risedale Consent Form: [NHS Test & Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing](#)
- Self-swab instruction leaflet: [How to do your test COVID-19 instruction leaflet for schools](#)
- Considerations for children with SEND: [Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings - GOV.UK](#)
- Getting a COVID-19 PCR test: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

## Privacy Notice:

- [COVID-19 Testing at Home of Pupils](#)

