

9th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 testing for staff and students

As part of the regional response to the rise in rates of the delta variant of Covid-19, Public Health England have requested the Academy reintroduce Covid-19 testing at the school this month. This will be conducted in the same way as we did earlier this year.

We are asking for your permission for your young person to be tested on Saturday 4th September and Thursday 9th September. The tests will be the same as before, 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 will improve our ability to stop the Delta-variant from potentially spreading within school.

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

We will keep all of the other protective measures at the Academy in place (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 [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. The quickest and easiest way to consent is by opening your **MyChildAtSchool app**, go to the parental consent section and click the slider to green to grant consent. You can find copies of all of the important information including the full consent form in the Important Documents Section.
2. If you are unable to access the MCAS app you can complete the **NHS test and trace consent form'** at the end of this letter and email it to transition.team@oasisoldham.org
3. Please then click the link here to register your child's attendance on Saturday 4th September https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zz3XjXy17EC3-HVbUS2fe_SRiS5VdIIDsQ-2G4-mzadUMks3TExKNFE5TDBYWEIPSEY1VTk4RzQ1MC4u
4. Please read the additional information on **'How will our process work?'** within this letter for more details on how we will handle different situations so you are fully informed.
5. Please read the NHS Test and Trace leaflet called **'How to do your test'** within this letter and share this with your young person to explain what will happen.

We are urging all families to agree to these safe and quick tests. 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 admin.requests@oasisoldham.org

Yours sincerely,



Miss D Gobbi
Principal, Oasis Academy Oldham

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Covid-19 Testing within school

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested when they return.
- 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 be asked to request a PCR test immediately.

Current guidance states that whatever the result, they will be required to self-isolate at home for 10 days but from 16th August under 18's will not have to self isolate.

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

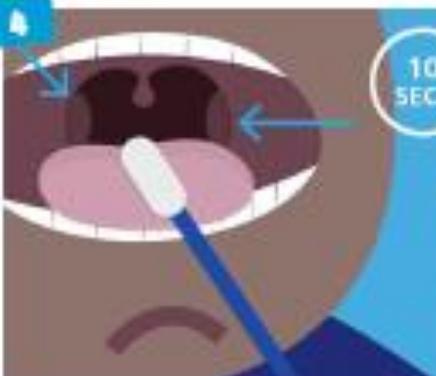


3



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

4



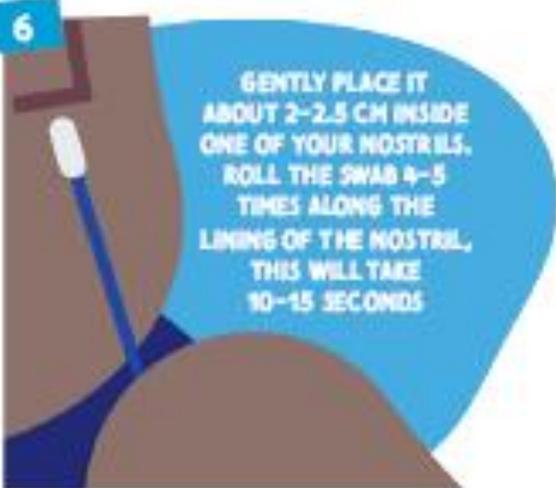
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

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

8



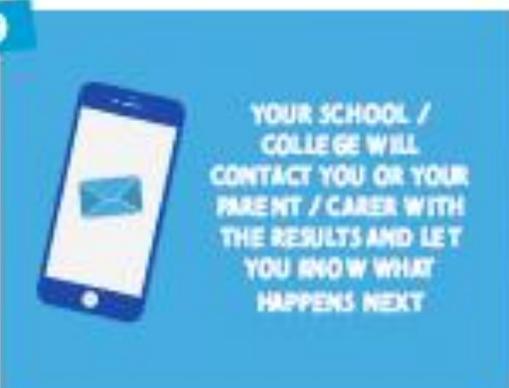
YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

7



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

9



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

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and carers of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows:

- **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 you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

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 letter dated July 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 having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.

4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.

5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school except where they/you 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 / 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 I / 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 I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

I confirm that I consent to all the statements above.	
Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print)	
Year group (if applicable)	
Name of parent or carer if under 16 (print)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	