



25th February

COVID-19 Testing for Students

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following our recent communications, I am writing today regarding the lateral flow Covid-19 tests that we will be offering to all students week commencing Monday 8th March.

Phase 2 of Lateral flow testing at OAO

In line with government guidance we will increase the offer of lateral flow testing to students who have been working from home and will return to site. Students will receive 3 tests each on site with a regular interval between tests. Once they have completed 3 tests students will be asked to take tests home to test at home and report the results back to school. More information on the next stage of home testing will be communicated in due course

Permission to test

We are asking for your permission for your son/daughter to be tested during the week commencing Monday 8th March. They will be tested on arrival to school only once you have given permission, details on how to give your permission follow later in this letter.

Government Guidelines

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 [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?

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.

If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your young person to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation ahead of your child's first test in the week commencing 8th March.

You can provide your consent in one of 3 ways:

A. The quickest and easiest way to do this is to respond to the prompts through the MCAS app

B. Fill in the attached form, and return it by email to katie.mclaren@oasisoldham.org

Or

C. Print and return the attached form for your child to bring to school with them.

We are urging all families to agree to this safe and quick test when they return to school, and if they should come into contact with a confirmed case we will follow our usual track and trace procedures resulting in a period of self-isolation if necessary and in line with government guidelines . If you choose to not give permission for your child to be tested, the track and trace process will still apply.

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 katie.mclaren@oasisoldham.org.

Alternately you can visit our website homepage which features detailed information on the testing programme <https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid>

Yours sincerely,



Miss D Gobbi
Principal

Principal - Miss D Gobbi

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Covid-19 Testing within school

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested as they return from 18th January.
- Students will then be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. They can continue to come to school if they agreed to be tested daily for seven days following last contact with a positive case (over the weekend they will need to self-isolate). Staff will be tested weekly.
- 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 able to return immediately if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative (they would need to self-isolate over the weekend during the 7 days).

If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if your young person would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, they can.

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 test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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 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 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.
 9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 days.

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	

Oasis Community Learning

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