

Details for parents and carers regarding asymptomatic testing

It is intended that pupils have three lateral flow tests in school over a ten-day period, after which testing will be done at home using kits provided by the school. A lateral flow test essentially involves using a swab to take a sample from the nose and back of the throat, which is then tested – more details can be found [here](#). Results are provided via text/email from the NHS.

The tests are self-administered, with guidance and support from trained staff; this is important so that pupils will then know how to undertake the test correctly at home. Home kits will not be provided until in-school testing has taken place.

Participation in this testing is optional but we strongly encourage as many pupils as possible to take part – identifying asymptomatic cases within the school community will help prevent the wider transmission of the virus. If, on the day of a test, a child does not willingly agree to undertake it, they will not be made to do so.

Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days may have some level of immunity and the DfE states they do not need to take part in routine asymptomatic testing. However, if you would still like your child to participate they can. Should they test positive they will need to self-isolate.

Giving consent

It is important that you let us know if you would or would not like your child to take part in asymptomatic testing. Please do this by **completing this [form](#) no later than Sunday 28 February**. Please do this even if you have previously provided consent. Details of how the personal data collected will be used are included in the attached privacy notice. The email address and mobile number you include in the consent form will be used by NHS to notify you of your child's test result.

Please complete the form for each child in your family who attends HMS. If you provide consent, you will be contacted next week with details on when this will take place.

Positive tests

If your child does test positive on a lateral flow device test, you will be contacted by school as soon as possible on the day of the test, in addition to you receiving the text/email from the NHS. Your child, and anyone identified as a close contact, will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. Children testing positive with a lateral flow device test *carried out in school*, do not need to have a subsequent polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at a local COVID testing centre (although this will be needed if testing positive using a lateral flow device test *at home*).

This testing programme is for asymptomatic pupils, i.e. those with no symptoms. If your child does develop 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 visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.