

Ref: Dr JP/MH

Date: 4th January 2021**NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Staff and Pupils at St Vincent's School**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker Covid-19 tests, and our school will be starting this the week beginning of 11 January. The programme will help pupils to stay in education, by enabling close contacts of someone who tests positive to stay in school if they do a daily test for seven days. This is known as 'serial testing'.

Along with the other measures we are taking, **these tests will help staff and pupils to work safely**. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so by supporting them to self-isolate we will save lives and help keep our school open and as safe as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days, and the test is negative. If not, 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 you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the form below, and the enclosed consent statement** (one per pupil/student) and return it to the school office via email or in person.

The test will be supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose. For under 18s, staff can assist with taking the swab.

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be informed.

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories in partnership with Oxford University and is totally safe, with a 99.8% specificity. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. J. A. Patterson

Principal

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NHS Test and Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing

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

- **for pupils younger than 16 years**, this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Remember to complete **one consent form for each child** you wish to enrol.
- **pupils over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian.

This COVID-19 testing is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care to complete testing in schools/colleges for staff and pupils/students in Key Stages 3 and above. Taking part in testing is voluntary.

If your child's result is negative on the lateral flow test you will not be contacted by the school/college except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.

Please return the attached form to School as soon as possible.

NHS Test and Trace Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing

Based on the information presented in the letter dated 04.01.2021, I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.

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.

1. I consent to my child having a nose swab for a lateral flow test.
2. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of Covid-19.

| YES | NO |
|-----|----|
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3. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of Covid-19, I will collect my child and I will arrange a confirmatory PCR test at home which shall be sent the same day to an accredited clinical diagnostics laboratory run by Public Health England (PHE) with results available within 24-48 hours.
4. I consent that they will need to self-isolate following the PCR test until the results have been received.
5. I consent that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, this should be reported to the school / college and my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
6. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but my child has tested negative, they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for what would otherwise have been the isolation period in force at the time (currently 10 days).

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Name of Student (PRINT)

Year group

Name of Parent/Guardian if under 16

(PRINT) _____

Signature _____

Date

Relationship to child if they are under 16 _____