

Dormers Wells High School

MATHS AND COMPUTING SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms R. Walsh B.A.Hons M.Sc.

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Dear Parent and Carers,

You may be aware that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme planned in Dormers Wells High School.

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

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and students as they return to the building after the Christmas break and that currently applies to our students identified as vulnerable or the children of critical workers who have chosen to access remote learning on site. This also applies to our staff members supervising this provision.

In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in school.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and this link takes you to [a NHS instructional leaflet](#) with more information as to how the self-administered test process works.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by us and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. These can be booked through a Community Testing Centre. For families who struggle to access a Community Testing Centre, the school has a small number of home test kits that are available.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.



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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. Pupils will be informed of negative test results by a member of staff. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by us. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at DWHS 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 <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Consenting to Testing

Before we invite students to take the test, we do need your consent. In giving your consent to regular testing, you are consenting to your data being shared with NHS Track and Trace and a privacy notice is attached for your information in addition to some frequently asked questions related to data sharing in this instance.

The consent form will be sent via a My Ed Message.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask by contacting the school via the My Ed app.

Yours faithfully,



Ms R Walsh
Headteacher



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