

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1XW
Telephone (01983) 524634 Facsimile (01983) 533911
E.mail office@stgeorges.iow.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Sue Holman, BEd (Hons)



5th February 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff and Students

Dear Parent or Guardian/ Member of Staff

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is happening 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 in our school.

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

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents and carers may want to look at the Rapid Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings>

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school and college age students as they return to school.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat. For those who are unable to self-swab please refer to the Rapid Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information about options. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student/member of staff of a positive test result. Parents or legal guardians will also be informed via text/email.

What if I/ my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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.. 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 St George's who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if I/ a student develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If anyone 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Holman'.

Sue Holman
Head Teacher