



NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Secondary Pupils

2nd March 2021

Dear all,

Further to my communication on Friday, I can now provide you with more information regarding the Lateral Flow Testing for Secondary pupils, that will be taking place at CFS over the next couple of weeks. As you are probably aware, it is a directive from the Department for Education that all Secondary and Sixth Form pupils are offered three Covid-19 lateral flow tests on site. Thereafter, testing will move to be conducted at home.

1. Why are these tests happening?

Firstly, it is important to clarify that the lateral flow tests in school are for asymptomatic pupils only – **if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they should isolate as previously and may take a PCR test at or from a local testing centre.** 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.

It is widely acknowledged that these tests are not 100% accurate, but as part of a regular testing regime they have been proven to pick up cases of those who are most contagious but not actually displaying symptoms and so would otherwise have not been tested. This is another measure, along with social distancing, face coverings, enhanced hygiene and bubbles that will help to break the chain of transmission. Whilst not a perfect test, every test and positive case that is identified will help to keep pupils and staff safe in school alongside the other measures.

Having three tests conducted in school will also ensure that pupils are shown how to complete the tests properly, before they move to home testing.

As outlined below, we have worked hard to make this process as comfortable as possible for the pupils, and **we are therefore strongly encouraging that all Secondary pupils are tested in school over the next couple of weeks.** However, these tests are not compulsory, and testing will only be conducted for pupils in Years 7-11 for whom we have received formal written consent from their parent/guardian, or have given their own written consent in Year 13.

2. How does the testing work?

The testing centre will be based in the Sports Hall, which will be accessed via the external door. For all three tests across the three weeks, pupils will be tested in small groups – a maximum of 30 at a time – and we have created a sense of privacy around the testing bays themselves to help pupils who are feeling nervous or anxious. We have a variety of Senior leaders and pastoral staff on hand to support pupils, as we know this will be an unusual experience or them.

Pupils will have space in the Sports Hall – socially distanced at all times – to wait both before and after their tests, and who will be able to answer any questions or worries that they have.

The test centre is staffed primarily by CFS staff, with some volunteers from our parental and Governing bodies. All staff will have completed thorough training, both in person and through completing a variety of online training and assessments.

Pupils will take the test themselves; they will be supervised by trained staff who are familiar to the pupils. 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 pupils. A negative test will mean that a pupil can go straight to class. For a positive result, we will ensure privacy as we inform the pupil, a comfortable place for them to wait as we call parents to collect them, and of course we will ensure there is both medical and pastoral support in place in the case of a positive result.

3. When will the tests happen?

As outlined last week, we are staggering pupils' return to school to allow the first tests to happen for all year groups by Friday 12th March. As a reminder, even if your child is not having a test, they still need to arrive at their tutor group's time on their Transition Day. A reminder of these times will be sent tomorrow. Instead of going through the test centre, they will go straight to meet their Head of Year or subject teacher and will be directed on the gate by myself or Mr Phillips.

Pupils will then be tested again at 3-5 day intervals, with 3 tests happening for all year groups by Friday 19th March. The timetable below shows the general time and day that each year group will have their three tests. However, in all cases please be assured that the testing will always be staggered, with one tutor group or class at a time having staggered entry to the testing centre throughout the time listed.

Day	Periods 1-4	Lunchtime	Periods 5-6
Friday 5 th			Year 13 (1)
Monday 8 th	Year 11 (1)		Key workers
Tuesday 9 th	Year 10 (1)		
Wednesday 10 th	Year 7 (1)		Year 13(2)
Thursday 11 th	Year 8 (1)	Year 11 (2)	Year 11 (2)
Friday 12 th	Year 9 (1)	Year 10 (2)	Year 10 (2)
Monday 15 th	Year 7 (2) P 1-3 Year 8 (2) P 4	Year 13 (3)	Year 8 (2)
Tuesday 16 th	Year 11 (3) P 1-3		Year 9 (2)
	Year 9 (2) P 4		
Wednesday 17 th	Year 10 (3) P 1-3		
Thursday 18 th	Year 7 (3) P 1-3		Year 8 (3)
	Year 8 (3) P 4		
Friday 19 th	Year 9 (3) P 1-3		

4. How do I provide consent?

As mentioned, we will only test pupils for whom we have received the appropriate written consent. For Years 7-11, consent can be granted by one parent/guardian, Year 13 students may give consent for themselves.

Attached to this email is the consent form, which can also be found on our website here -

<https://www.chichesterfreeschool.org.uk/coronavirus-update/>

Please return this to the school, as soon as possible, by Friday 5th March if possible, but certainly before your child's first test day. Ideally, please complete an electronic version of the form and return to Ms Garner on absence@chichesterfreeschool.org.uk. We must receive this form from a parent email address. Alternatively you can print the form and drop it into main reception.

Pupils are able to bring a copy of the form with them on the day – printed out and signed by you (we can not accept photographs etc of the form on their phone). However, it will make the process far smoother for everyone if the form is returned to us in advance please.

If you do not wish for your child to have a test in school, then simply do not return the consent form. You do not have to opt out, you only have to formally opt in.

5. Do I need to set up anything on my child's phone? How will data be sent to the NHS?

No, your child will not need their own phone to upload any results – we will be doing this all centrally. We will send them the key information you have provided in the consent form, only with your child's test result/s. For how the data will then be used, please see the separate attachment from PHE of FAQs, as well as the Privacy Notice.

6. What will be happening with home testing?

This will begin after your child has had their third test. We will be in touch next week with further information about how this will work. Home testing kits will only be available to pupils for whom we have had consent for in-school testing and have completed tests in school.

7. Further FAQs

What if 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. Pupils will be informed of negative test results. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed via the contact details provided on the consent form via the national service, not the School. Please be aware this can take a while to come through to you from the national centralised system, but we will be in touch straight away if there is a positive case – so no news straight away means that your child has tested negative.

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

As we have done previously, the staff member or pupil will be notified that they are a close contact by us and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance. Pupils and staff will be strictly social distanced at all times whilst in the testing centre itself.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at CFS 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>.

What if my child tells you that they want to be tested, but I have not given consent?

We will only test pupils for whom we have the appropriate written consent, for Years 7-11 this has to be from a parent or guardian regardless of what the pupil tells us in person.

I haven't managed to send the consent form back, and have forgotten to give it to my child before their first test; can I phone their mobile and speak to someone to give verbal consent instead?

Unfortunately not, we have to have this in writing. However, we would be able to give you time to send the consent form through and try to test your child in a slightly different slot where possible. Alternatively, you could send it through for the second testing slot instead. However, where possible do try to send the forms through to us before your child's transition day.

Do I have to provide consent for all three tests?

No, the consent form is for all tests in school.

What happens if I have given consent but my child refuses to have the test when in school?

Whilst we will try to support them and encourage them, we are not going to force anyone to have the test who is that uncomfortable about doing so,. However if we have consent from you, and so you are expecting them to be tested, we will contact you to let you know that this has happened.

I want my child to take the tests, but only at home; can I just have the home test kits instead?

Unfortunately, we have to follow the guidance extremely carefully and this states very clearly that home test kits can only be provided to pupils that have had the testing done in school first. In this situation we would want to work with you to try and find a way that your child would feel comfortable having the first tests conducted in school in a way they feel able to do so, so that they can they continue with the testing programme from home under your supervision. We understand that this stance may be frustrating to you, but these are the strict guidelines that we have to follow.

I have heard that parents can now test at home too; will we be getting our testing kits from CFS?

No. The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed: via employers if they offer testing to employees; at a local test site; by collecting a home test kit from a test site; by ordering a home test kit online. Schools have been told that we should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Letters containing advice on where to access testing will be made available for schools to share with parents and staff shortly, and we will of course share these with you as soon as we have them.

Thank you for taking the time to read another lengthy piece of communication. I will be in touch again tomorrow with the final information needed before pupils return next week, including the pupil guides.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise New

Principal