

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students and staff

Additional Information

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. 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/ email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

What If my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device administered by the school they will be informed immediately and will need to self-isolate in line with the NHS stay-at-home guidance. If the lateral flow device is administered at home they will need to arrange to take a PCR test. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards.

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.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/ email. 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 the school. Updated guidance states that close contacts of positive cases will need to self-isolate as instructed by the 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.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Gosforth Group schools 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>.

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