

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School

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In School Asymptomatic Testing - FAQ

What is an in school asymptomatic test?

This is a rapid result test to pick up the covid virus in people who do not have any covid symptoms. It is also known as a lateral flow device test. A negative test means it is unlikely you have the virus but you may be in the early stages of infection, therefore it is recommended that testing takes place every 3-5 days along with following the coronavirus advice.

It involves taking a swab of the throat and nasal cavity, the swab is then processed and a result is available in 30 minutes.

Why are we testing the students in school?

To make sure students know what to do and have some practice before they test at home.

3 tests will be supervised in school.

What does the test involve?

Supervised, students self-swab the back of their throat (tonsil area) and then one nostril, the swab is then processed by the testing team. The results are uploaded onto the NHS site and a confirmatory email and/or text message is sent to the number provided on the consent form.

What if I don't want my child to take part?

We want as many school children to take part in the testing as possible, however the tests are voluntary. Your child will still be able to attend school as normal even if they do not take the tests.

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What happens if my child cannot take the test?

Many children will find the test difficult, which is why we are supervising them on a one-to-one basis. If your child is particularly anxious or has a medical reason why they cannot self-swab they should not have the test. If they are unable to carry out the test on the day, we will not go ahead with the test. Your child will still be able to attend school as normal.

New tests are currently being developed which may be more accessible to your child and the advice is to wait until these are available.

What happens if the result is positive?

You will receive an email and / or a text with the result from the NHS site. We will also notify you and isolate the student, then carry out our school contact tracing. You will then need to follow the government guidelines (isolate for 10 days).

Are the staff trained to do the test?

All staff and volunteers involved in the testing process have undergone on-line and in house training. However, we are not trained to carry out the tests on students. The staff are there to supervise self-swabbing and then process the swab.

When will the home testing start?

Once your child has had 3 tests in school, they will be sent home with a home testing kit. These are slightly different to the tests we use in school and come with instructions on how to use them.

What happens if I am notified that my child is a contact?

Your child will be asked to isolate for 10 days as per the government guidelines. We are not offering daily testing for contacts.

My child has had a positive covid test result in the past, should they still be tested?

Yes, even if it is within the last 90 days. They should also still follow the isolation guidelines in the event of a positive test result or a contact notification.