

15th July 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may have heard that on site testing for students will be undertaken by the school when the students return in September. 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 Beacon High to be tested.

Plan for testing

In line with government guidance your child will be tested on site two times over the first five days of the school reopening; these dates and times are listed below:

Test number	Date	Time
1	3rd September 2021	Between 1:20pm and 3:30pm. Students should enter via the school entrance in Carleton Road
2	8th September 2021	On school site during the day

Following the completion of this testing period. Students will be sent home with home testing kits which will need to be administered twice a week for the next month. Additional information on recording of results and notifying the school of the result will be included with the first home testing kit you receive

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 parent of the student will also receive a [text/email] notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.



What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device you will be contacted by the school, they will need to be sent home and will be required to have a PCR test and will only be able to return if the test comes back as negative. A positive PCR will require the student to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

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. Parents will be informed of negative test results via text/email.

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

The students will no longer be required to self isolate if they come into close contact with a student/staff member who tests positive. They will be required to take a PCR test and follow government guidance if this comes back positive.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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 pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by email: postbox@beaconhigh.org.

Yours faithfully,

Andrea MacDonald

Ms A MacDonald
Deputy Headteacher