

5th January 2021

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

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are continuing to work hard to keep our college as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those **without** coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and learners to remain in college safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our college open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I strongly urge everyone to take it, to keep everyone attending College safe.

We will be testing all staff and learners who want to participate from week commencing 11th January 2021. I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

The agreement for your son or daughter to be tested, can be found [here](#). Please complete and submit this online form.

Alternatively, please find enclosed a paper copy of the consent form. Please return this to Oakley College at the address found at the top of the letter.

Either must be returned to us **before** your son/daughter returns to College.

Those taking the test will be supervised and assisted by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with learners and staff participating.

We are advised that these tests do work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be over 95% accurate in identifying cases where a person is most infectious. The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up asymptomatic cases when a person has been tested frequently.

All testing will be offered and given free of charge.

What if a learner tests positive?

Participating staff and learners who test positive will be informed about their results individually and sensitively. Guidance on safe travel home and additional precautions will be provided with test results.

Individuals will then need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day, or as soon as possible, to confirm the result of the lateral flow test.

College will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test.

If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text/email) the person will need to self-isolate.

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If the PCR test returns a positive result the young person or staff member will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in college and resume their activities as normal. A learner will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear from us you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact tests positive?

If a close contact of someone in college has tested positive for COVID-19, the learner or staff member will be able to attend College if they agree to be tested once a day every day for 7 days and each test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of college who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my son or daughter develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Oakley College is for people with no symptoms. If your son or daughter develops symptoms at any time (such as 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and learners throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01732 207950 or email office@oakley.ac.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Gordon Tillman, CEO