

15 July 2021

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

It has been announced that all students in secondary schools should be tested for COVID 19 using a lateral flow test before returning fully to school in September. I am currently planning the first few days back and more information will follow regarding this. Lateral flow testing is strongly encouraged in order to keep our school community safe. As your youngster has not had a lateral flow test at Lees Brook before, I am including information about the testing programme in our school and there is a link at the end of this letter in order for you to give consent.

#### **How the tests work**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow devices are easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat. Your youngster will be given verbal assistance during the process. Results take approximately 30 minutes to process; the school will inform the student of a positive test result. Parents or legal guardians will also be informed via a text. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

#### **Plan for testing**

We will be offering two initial tests to all students in school. This will be at the start of term and the tests will be 3 to 5 days apart. Staff members are also tested regularly.

#### **What if my child tests positive?**

If the lateral flow test returns a positive result, they will have to self-isolate as per the government guidelines 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. Parents will be informed of negative test results via text.

A negative rapid test does not guarantee that your child is not infected, as there may unfortunately be small numbers of children who have the virus that will be given a false negative result.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

**Rapid testing is only for people without symptoms.** Anyone who has one of the three main symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) should stay at home with those they live with and request a PCR (lab test) through the national <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If any of the following applies, children should not come to school and should follow national guidance and self-isolate at home:

- If a child has symptoms and are waiting to take a test or receive a result
- Someone in their household is waiting to take a test or receive a result
- Has a positive test result or lives with someone who has a positive test result

I hope this letter provides you with sufficient information about the testing programme to complete the online consent form <https://tinyurl.com/3mt8jvy8>. **The deadline for this is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 3pm. Separate consent forms must be completed for each youngster in school.** Please contact school if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully



Zoe House  
Headteacher