



8 January 2021

## Re: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as the 'lateral flow devices'. 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 school to be tested.

### Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and students as they return to school this term.

In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested for seven days to allow them to remain in school instead of isolating for the current recommended period of 10 days (providing that each daily test result is negative).

### Consent

To enable students to take part in testing at Brentside, we need to have a record of consent either from the individual, if over the age of 16, or the parent/carer if under the age of 16. Please give consent (one consent form needs to be completed for each child) by using the [consent form](#).

### 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 throat and nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. Where test results are positive, the school will also inform parents/carers. The parent/carer of a student under 16, and an individual over 16 will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

### What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by a member of Brentside staff and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns as positive result, they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test result 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. Parents/carers of students under 16, and individuals over 16 will be informed of negative test results via text.

### **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. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of seven days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. Where the seventh day of testing falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the student/member of staff will be tested on the next day that they return to school after the weekend for one final test. 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 and are participating in daily contact testing.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at Brentside High 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 students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions using [info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Christine MacInnes and Charlotte Hames  
Interim Co-Headteachers