



The Arnewood School

11-19 Academy

Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow

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22nd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students and Staff – January 2021

On Saturday 19th December 2020 I received additional notification from the Department for Education (DfE) concerning the proposed COVID-19 lateral flow tests for students and staff in January. As you are aware, the start to the spring term will be staggered to facilitate this test procedure. This letter is closely based on the template provided by the DfE and contains all the information I have received. It is being sent to Year 11 and Sixth Form students only. Other years will be contacted in the week beginning 4th January 2021.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school 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 school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff, Year 11 and Sixth Form students who want to participate from week commencing 4th January 2021.

Below is an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the NHS's registration form below and the attached consent statement (one per student) and ensure your son/daughter brings both with them to be collected on the first day of school. For those without access to a printer, blank forms will be available from the school reception from 10.30 am on Monday 4th January 2021 (INSET day). Sixth Form students and others aged 16 or over can complete the forms in school on Tuesday 5th January 2021 if they have discussed the test with their parent or carer.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy, involving a swab being taken from the nose and throat of the person being tested. For students under the age of 18, staff can oversee the swab process. Testing will be offered free of charge.

Results, which take around half an hour from testing, will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under the age of 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed if the test is positive.

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, the tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

As more information is provided I shall update the school webpage www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk/covid-19. Please check this regularly.

Yours faithfully,

N. M. Pressnell

Nigel Pressnell
Headteacher

HOW TO GET YOUR COVID-19 TEST

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 WHEN YOU ARRIVE, SOMEONE WILL BE THERE IF YOU NEED HELP

3 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

4 TO START YOU WILL BE ASKED TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDELY AND SAY 'AHHHH' SO A SWAB CAN BE GENTLY RUBBED ON THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT

5 AFTER 10 SECONDS, YOUR TESTING HELPER WILL CAREFULLY REMOVE THE SWAB AND GENTLY PLACE IT UP ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS

6 THE SWAB WILL THEN BE TURNED GENTLY 5 TIMES, THIS TAKES ABOUT 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOUR SWAB WILL BE REMOVED GENTLY AND PLACED IN A VIAL FOR TESTING

8 YOU CAN ASK YOUR TESTING HELPER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE BUT THAT'S IT, YOU'RE ALL DONE AND YOUR TEST IS COMPLETE

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

NHS Registration

To process the test, we will register all participating students.

To complete this registration please fill in the form below and complete the enclosed consent statement.

First Name	
Last Name	
Date of Birth	
Gender at birth	
Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms? *	
Today's date	
Home Postcode	
Email Address	
Mobile Number	

* Students displaying symptoms should not attend school – please notify us of their absence via the covid@arnewood.hants.sch.uk email address providing your son/daughter's name, year group, and your contact details.

NHS Test and Trace Common Consent Form for COVID-19 Testing

This common consent form has been designed by the NHS for use by parents and guardians of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily *, based on the information presented in the letter dated 20th December 2020.

2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.

3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.

4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.

5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.

6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.

7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.

8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.

Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print)	
Year group (if applicable)	
Name of parent or guardian if under 16 (print)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	

* Please note all information provided to the school by the DfE on testing has been made available in this letter. Please check the school webpage below for updates.

www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk/covid-19

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will 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). The school 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, they 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 from the NHS) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you 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 school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear 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 at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the 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 school 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 child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child 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 visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.