

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

Additional information

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school students as they return to school when current restrictions allow. In the meantime, testing of staff and students involved in face-to-face teaching and who are currently attending school will start from Monday 25 January 2021.

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/carers will also be informed. Parents/carers will also receive a text/ email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and parents/carers will be notified. The student will need to be collected from school and self-isolate at home following the instructions from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test 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 will also be informed of negative test results via text/ email.

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 and will need to self-isolate at home for 10 days from last contact.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Gosforth Group schools 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.