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Chetwynde School

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7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

NHS Test and Trace: Lateral Flow Testing for staff and Senior Pupils

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. We will be starting to test all staff and Senior pupils who are attending the Hub on a weekly basis starting from **Monday 11th January**. **This will take place every Monday thereafter.**

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils 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.

Please Note : As a result start times for the Hub each Monday will be:

Start:

- **8.50am : Primary KS2 – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6**
- **9.00am : Primary KS1 – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2**
- **9.30am : Senior pupils**

Start times for Tuesday – Friday will remain the same:

Start:

- **8.30am : Primary KS2 – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6**
- **8.40am : Primary KS1 – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2**
- **9.00am : Senior pupils**

Senior pupils only : If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the attached registration and consent form - one per pupil and return it to the school office via: info@chetwynde.cumbria.sch.uk.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. **For those pupils who are under the age of 12 a parent will need to attend with them to administer the test.**

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they 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.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

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). 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) 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 pupil 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 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 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils 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 01229 824210 or email info@chetwynde.cumbria.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr S. Jefferson
Headteacher