



25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Mass testing of students

Following the announcement of the government's plans to reopen schools from 8 March 2021 and further DfE guidance issued to schools, I am writing to outline the latest plans for the Covid mass testing of students on their return to school.

As you are aware, schools have been provided with lateral flow devices which produce a result within 30 minutes. These are already being used widely in school to test staff and students attending the special provision and are designed to identify those individuals who have the virus but are not displaying any symptoms ('asymptomatic cases'). The lateral flow devices should not be used by anybody displaying symptoms or by anybody who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days. Anybody displaying symptoms should book a test by contacting the NHS.

Schools are requested to test all students **where consent has been provided** 3 times on their return to school, 3-5 days apart. Our current plan is that testing will be carried out over the weeks commencing 8 and 15 March and your child/(ren) will shortly receive a communication outlining the day that they will be required to come in for testing and the day that they can return to school. We anticipate that students will be able to return fully to face to face teaching the day after their first test as long as they have tested negative. Any students testing positive will need to be collected as soon as possible and will be required to isolate for 10 days, along with their household.

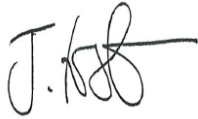
After this initial testing phase, home test kits will be provided to students so that they can carry out twice weekly testing at home. The initial phase outlined above is designed to both identify the asymptomatic cases and to 'train' students in how to carry out the test independently. A test for any student aged 11 must be administered by an adult, all students aged 12 or above should be supervised by an adult when swabbing. All results will need to be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and the school. A positive lateral flow result will need to be confirmed by another Covid test (a 'PCR' test) and the household will be required to isolate at least until the result of the PCR test is known. We will share further information and training materials to support this testing before the home kits are introduced, currently anticipated to be in place from 22 March 2021.

We are only able to test your child as part of the mass testing programme if consent has been provided. Students for whom consent has not been provided will be allowed to return to school on the first day of face to face teaching for their year group, however we **strongly recommend** that as many students as possible take part for the safety of our staff, students and wider community. If you would like your child to be tested in school and **you have not already done so**, please can you complete the consent form available [here](#). The mass testing privacy notice, which sets out how the data collected will be used and stored, is available on our website [here](#).

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that any students displaying symptoms or awaiting test results must not attend school and must follow public health isolation guidance.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me via the office on meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org. We are really looking forward to students returning to school from 8 March 2021 and are keen to return to learning as quickly and as safely as possible. We thank you for your continued patience and on-going co-operation with our Covid control measures and with remote learning over the lockdown period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Foster', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs J Foster
Business Manager