



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

23rd February 2021

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

Dear Parents or Carers,

We are working hard to keep Biddenham School as safe as possible. You may have heard that as part of the plan for returning students to school, testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

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 we would encourage everyone to take it.

We are aiming to test all staff and secondary school age students who want to participate as soon as possible from week commencing 8th March 2021.

We also attach below an Instruction Leaflet with some more information about how the test works and a Consent Form.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form, below, including the enclosed consent statement (one per student) and return it to the school, either with your child to hand in when registering or click [this link](https://forms.gle/gwoGnnM596WjNg1b8) (<https://forms.gle/gwoGnnM596WjNg1b8>) to give consent electronically. If we do not have consent when your child arrives for their testing appointment we will be unable to proceed with testing on that day.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating, only in the event of a positive test. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

These tests are effective. Although they can have lower sensitivity they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently to start with.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students 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.

Students 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). 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, try to visit a drive-through

Biddenham Turn, Biddenham, Bedford, MK40 4AZ

Tel: 01234 342521

Fax: 01234 334530

Email: enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Website: biddenham.beds.sch.uk

test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. We can provide PCR test kits to perform at home, if there are problems with accessing tests.

During this time while waiting for the PCR result (via text / email) students 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?

Students will be able to 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 students 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 need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members of a close contact who are still able to continue with their regular activities.

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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. Please let us know by email at enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk or call the office on 01234 342521.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Bailey
Principal



Ms E Grylls
Head of School

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

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

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

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 8 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

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

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

- **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.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing based on the information presented in the letter dated 23rd February 2021

Yes

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.

My child is under 16, I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate.

N/A, my child is over 16 years old

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

Yes, I give consent

No, I do not give consent

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

Yes, I give consent

No, I do not give consent

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.

Yes

6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I understand that I am responsible for booking a confirmatory PCR test and will need to self-isolate until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received. 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 and understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

Yes

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	