



The Crossley Heath School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Lateral Flow Testing for Students in January 2022

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the lateral flow testing programme in January. As you will be aware, the government has instructed schools to conduct lateral flow tests for students upon return to school in January, following the Christmas break.

The schedule is attached to this letter. The testing will be over two days. Each year group has been allocated a 'window' during which they can arrive for their test. Please adhere to the testing times to avoid year groups mixing. Your child should not take part in this testing programme within 90 days of a positive PCR test.

On Tuesday 4 January, all students will work remotely from home with year 10-13 coming in to school for a test. These students can return to school on Wednesday 5 January, subject to a negative test. On the Wednesday, years 7-9 will continue to work remotely but will come in for their tests only. They will return to school as normal on Thursday 6 January. Please note that there will be no dining facilities on Wednesday 6 January, so students should please bring lunch with them. Students in receipt of free school meals will be catered for.

You will note from the programme that students will come into school for their tests only and then go home. We apologise for any added inconvenience here but we are advised that this is the safest way to avoid transmission in the first instance, particularly with the emergence of the new Omicron variant of COVID-19. Siblings may come together. With regard to consent for the tests, you are able to give consent on the Arbor App-parent portal. Please see the Notices tab. This is the quickest and easiest way and means that your consent remains in place for any future lateral flow tests, unless you choose to withdraw your consent, and we won't need to ask about consent again in the future. Please arrange to give consent on Arbor by Wednesday 15 December. Alternatively, please arrange for your child to bring with them a signed copy of the consent form on the day of their test. A copy is attached for you. Please note that we will not be able to carry out the test without your consent. Sixth form students may give their own consent if they wish.

What if my child has a positive lateral flow test result?

If your child has a positive lateral flow result from this test in school, you will need to arrange for them to have a PCR test which can be done at any of the local test centres or by contacting the NHS online <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Please inform us of the result of the PCR test using covid@crossleyheath.org.uk. Positive students should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date their test result came back as positive.

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If your child's PCR result is negative, please provide the result to school via covid@crossleyheath.org.uk and we will confirm that they are able to return to school. Without evidence of the negative test, your child will not be allowed to return to school until after their isolation period (10 days from receiving the positive LFT result).

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. A PCR test should be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 or by visiting any of the local testing stations. Please inform us if your child has a positive test using covid@crossleyheath.org.uk

Advice for families

The guidance around this is evolving due to the emergence of the new Omicron variant. Please see the link below for the most recent guidance we have.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/covid-19-schools-operational-guidance#closecontacts>

We continue to follow the local Calderdale guidance for schools at the present time which is due to be reviewed in January and is a slight variation to the Government guidance for students in particular. The Calderdale guidance advises that if someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR), students are asked to stay at home. If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away. If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms). If this test is negative, the child can return to school but must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms.

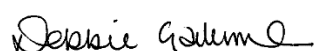
Some children are exempt from this advice:

- 12–16-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
- Any child aged between 5 – 16 who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days.

There is a great deal of information to digest here but we can help you with all the guidance as and when individuals need it. The most urgent thing right now is to give consent, if you wish to do so, so that arrangements can be in hand for testing on the first day after the holidays. We need to ensure all the paperwork is completed before the end of term.

We trust you find this information useful and appreciate your support with this lateral flow testing programme.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Gallimore
Executive Leader