



July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **NHS COVID-19 Testing at Plymstock School (Lateral Flow Testing)**

The Department for Education recently announced changes to testing for COVID-19 in schools for this coming September. The main guidance being issued is for schools to organise two rounds of tests at the start of the new autumn term. This letter will explain all the necessary points concerned with testing and consent.

### **Testing: Tuesday 7 and Friday 10 September & Parental Consent**

As with all school COVID-19 testing we require parental consent for this to occur, but this is totally optional and at the discretion of each individual household. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the consent form by clicking on the link below. The test time on **Tuesday 7** (one day before your child starts school) **and Friday 10 September** (when students will come out of lessons to be tested) will not be scheduled until we have received your consent. The deadline for consent is 9.00am on Wednesday 14 July 21 (unfortunately we cannot accept any consent forms past this date). All testing will be taking place in the 'Tented Sports Hall'. Please do not worry, appropriate signage will be visible to direct your child to the facility on Tuesday 7 September and Plymstock staff will greet students as they enter the school site.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Aky\\_wK5An0uld-wG3Shgeq1flZc4sWhMghhNgzgwX0RUQTUxR1ZRMU5SVIRKVTZZTVZKRzZYRlpHNS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Aky_wK5An0uld-wG3Shgeq1flZc4sWhMghhNgzgwX0RUQTUxR1ZRMU5SVIRKVTZZTVZKRzZYRlpHNS4u)

It is not a requirement that your child is tested and therefore they can attend school on Wednesday 8 September without having taken a test, unless they develop COVID 19 symptoms.

### **How the tests work**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow device 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 participant of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The participant will also receive a notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

Nationally we do not have a perfect test for infectiousness, however the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) is a quick test which can identify an individual who is positive with a high level of the virus.

### **What if my test is positive?**

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

Students who test negative will be able to attend school as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/email from NHS Test and Trace. Where students are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If anyone 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>.

If you require any further information please contact us at school on 01752 402679. We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to Plymstock School in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Mark Taylor', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Mark Taylor  
Assistant Head Teacher

