



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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

I hope that you and your family had a safe and enjoyable new year. Following the government's lockdown announcement last night, further information regarding home learning will be communicated with you later today.

You may have heard that testing for those without Coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Heanor Gate Science College.

Up to one third of people who have Coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am, therefore, strongly encouraging those returning to Heanor Gate Science College to be tested.

It is important that we obtain parental/student consent for this testing. As such, it is vital that the form below is completed before students return. A separate form must be completed for each student:-

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_rUM0elvuk1ZzG0dKktKJZQf6tiudcBZrv91R2EktLmC72g/viewform?usp=sf_link

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school students as they return to school. This may be on Wednesday 6 January 2021 for the children of critical workers, or following the national lockdown for other students.

In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in school.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow 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 student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge. Please see the Privacy Notice below regarding the handling of data:-

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qv0cb1loY3L0A32cKirw12hytgX64M3Q/view?usp=sharing>

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What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. The school will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. During the time whilst waiting for the PCR result via text/email they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. They will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school/college who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Hearn Gate Science College is for individuals with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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 have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal