

## Lateral Flow Testing at Buckler's Mead Academy

Along with the other protective measures we are already 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. The Government believes that by testing, we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep the Academy open as safely as possible. These tests are voluntary, but we are encouraging everyone to take it.

The government now states, secondary schools should offer:

- initial testing of vulnerable children and children of critical workers who are on school and college sites (two tests, three to five days apart)
- weekly testing of staff who are on school and college sites
- daily testing of close contacts of positive cases in schools and college as an alternative to self-isolation, reducing disruption in schools and colleges. **This will not take place at Buckler's Mead until it is safe to do so.**

### Consent form

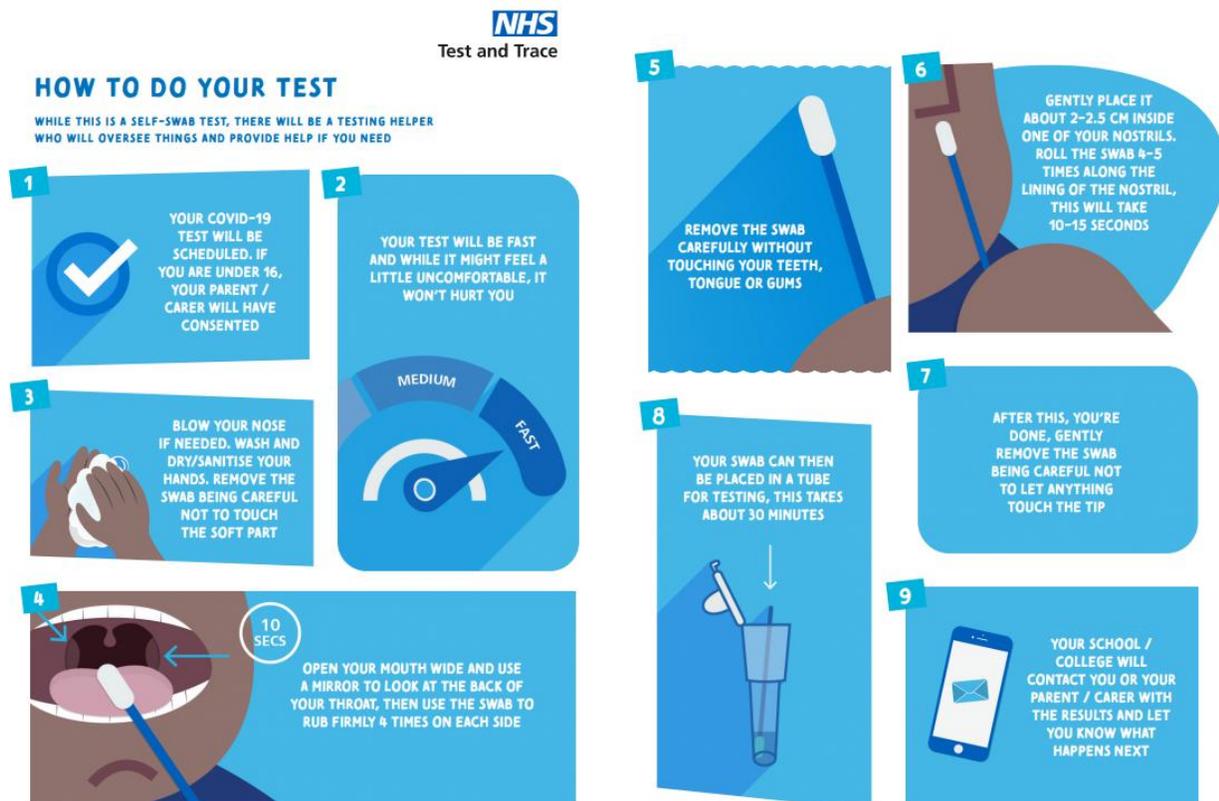
Only staff and students whose parents/ carers have consented to them taking the test do so.

The consent form is accompanied by an individual Privacy Notice, which explains how personal details will be protected.

### How we plan to deliver the test programme:

- 1) We have identified staff that are prepared to undertake the short training to administer, process and record test results. Cleaners and Team Leaders have also been identified to ensure the programme can run effectively.
- 2) Rooms with the required ventilation and testing booths have been arranged. We will be using the sub hall at the front of the Academy (part of the leisure centre) as this meets the requirements very well.
- 3) Isolation rooms for those students that test positive have been identified.

### Information on how the test works and what a child will need to do to take the test:



What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where a student tests positive, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Where a student needs to be collected we will expect this to be done within an hour of notification. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Staff and 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). We have a limited number of PCR tests available and may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test.

We recommend ordering a PCR test yourselves, ideally choosing to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During the time waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) the person will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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

A member of staff or student will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Staff and students will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test (by BMA staff), so if they do not hear they can assume it was negative. A small number of staff or 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/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. **HOWEVER, this decision will be made on a case by case basis in consultation with the Headteacher.** If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

#### What if my a staff member or student 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

This document accompanies the Lateral Flow Testing Risk Assessment.

Update 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021