



Dear Parent/Carer

August 2021

COVID-19 voluntary Lateral Flow Testing - September 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to Ashlyns in September. Please find below some information relating to lateral flow testing in advance of the official beginning of term.

When I wrote to you at the end of the summer term, I mentioned that the Government had informed secondary schools they were required to conduct another series of onsite lateral flow tests at the start of the autumn term. As before, the testing programme is voluntary, but students are encouraged to take part.

To accommodate the testing I explained that we would operate a staggered start to the term. The specific timings for each year group Years 8 through Year 13 can be found below. Please note that timings apply to all students within a year group, irrespective of whether they are being tested or not.

| Date | Year or Form Group | Arrival time / Location |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Thursday 2 September | Year 12 | Arrive on site by 9.20am and proceed to Chapel at 9.30am |
| Friday 3 September | Year 13 | Arrive on site by 9.35am and proceed to Chapel at 9.45am |
| Monday 6 September | Year 8 | Arrive on site by 8.30am and go directly to Chapel |
| Monday 6 September | 10B1, 10C1, 10H1, 10R1 | Students should not arrive on site before 10.55am. They should go directly to the Sports Hall for 11.00am. |
| Monday 6 September | 10B2, 10C2, 10H2, 10R2 | Students should not arrive on site before 10.55am. They should go directly to the Chapel for 11.00am. |
| Monday 6 September | 11B1, 11C1, 11H1, 11R1 | Students should not arrive on site before 1.15pm. They should go directly to the Sports Hall for 1.20pm. |
| Monday 6 September | 11B2, 11C2, 11H2, 11R2 | Students should not arrive on site before 1.15pm. They should go directly to the Chapel for 1.20pm. |
| Tuesday 7 September | Year 9 | Arrive on site by 8.30am and go directly to the Chapel |

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If your son/daughter did not participate in the first testing programme (which took place in March), but you would like them to be tested upon the return to school, please complete the consent form [HERE](#) by **9.00am on Friday 27 August**.

If you previously gave consent for your son/daughter to be tested, but now wish to withdraw that consent, please send an email to admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk, ensuring that you state your child's full name, by **9.00am on Friday 27 August**.

Participating students will take their second test within 3 to 5 days following the first test. There is no need for students who have had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 in the last 90 days to take a test.

Please see the school's COVID-19 Testing Privacy Statement [HERE](#).

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a double nasal swab. We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause some anxiety for some children and their families, particularly for some of those with SEND. Please rest assured that our experienced staff will be on hand to support your child. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void.

What if my child tests positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. If a test result is positive, parents will be informed and further instructions provided. The outcome of the test will also be reported to the online NHS system. If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days, follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace and take a confirmatory PCR test. If the result of the PCR test is negative they will no longer have to self-isolate and will be able to return to school.

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>.

I recognise that this is not the way we would ordinarily wish to welcome students back to school after the summer break; however, it is essential that we take the necessary steps to help make the school environment as safe as possible for September.

Yours sincerely



James Shapland
Headteacher