



much more than just a school



7 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Key Worker School Students

We are working to ensure Park Community School is as safe as possible. You will be aware 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 gives you more information about the testing programme at Park.

Along with other protective measures, testing will allow us to keep everyone in school as safely as possible. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to stop the virus spreading and to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we encourage everyone to take it.

Students will be prepared for their test in advance by tutors in school. We will go through the routine, answer any worries or questions and assistants will be there to reassure and advise them.

Initial return to term testing

We will be testing all staff and students currently attending school, who give their consent. Staff will be tested from Thursday 7 January and Key Worker School students from Monday 11 January. Please complete the registration/ consent form by Friday 9 January. The form should be completed even if you do not wish your child to take the test, there is provision for you to state this on the form, which is located at this link: <http://bit.ly/3pRHkT1>

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow device tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of your nose and throat. Staff will oversee the process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be only be shared if positive.

An instructional leaflet with some more information can be found below. Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if someone tests positive?

Any staff or students who test positive will be informed individually and parents or legal guardians will also be notified. If someone tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result



Success for All through Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

Park Community School
Middle Park Way, Havant, PO9 4BU
Headteacher: Christopher Anders BA(Hons) MA
T: 023 9248 9800 W: pcs.hants.sch.uk E: info@pcs.hants.sch.uk





This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards.

www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Wherever possible please choose to visit a drive-through or walk-through test site, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Students or staff who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A participant will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of people may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact 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. 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 a staff member or student develop 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>.

Further testing

In addition, school staff will be tested weekly for the remainder of spring term. We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can email the school at info@pcs.hants.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Anders'.

Christopher Anders
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ella Capaldi'.

Ella Capaldi
Head of School

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1 YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3 BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4 OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

10 SECS

MEDIUM FAST

5 REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6 GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7 AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8 YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9 YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT