

Leek High School

INSPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE



3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 further information and plan for testing for Staff and Pupils

As per our letter last week you will be aware that testing of 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 in our school.

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 school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We have been testing staff and secondary school and college age pupils who are currently in school during the lockdown subject to their consent. As per government guidelines we now plan to test all students who have consented before and on their return to school in the following weeks. (This will then be followed by an at home twice weekly self-testing programme for staff and students from the week beginning 22nd March and we will provide more information on this in due course).

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 pupil 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 and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

Springfield Road | Leek | Staffordshire | ST13 6EU

T: 01538 225050

E: LeekHighSchool@ttl.org.uk

www: <https://lhs.ttl.org.uk>

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by track and trace and the school and will need to take a further 'PCR test' at or from a test centre to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they and their household will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they and their household 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 pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to return to school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils 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 my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people 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 pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by calling 01538 225054 or emailing: lhs.office@tllt.org.uk.

If you have not yet given consent for your child to be tested you may still do so using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2ZEO4Wgo4kyLCjxLLqw-hBHgkt0fz8tBmvGIKT2NrdpURVJJUjZQRFdMV1NIQkdTR1pYTEc3RFFUQy4u>

A paper version of the consent form is also available from school by contacting the office.

Yours sincerely



P. Evans
Headteacher