



Our Ref: SDN/KON

February 2021

ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Mass Testing Arrangements Letter

I hope that you and your family are well and were able to have a well-deserved break during the half-term holiday.

As you're aware, the Government has announced that schools will reopen to all students **from Monday 8 March 2021**; however due to the testing requirements, this return will be phased.

Please note that this letter relates to the initial mass testing arrangements. A further detailed Return to School Arrangements letter will follow very shortly.

For those students who have consent, Government guidance states that students should only return to 'face to face' lessons following a negative Lateral Flow Test which will be administered in school. Please see below a link to the consent form. Please ensure that consent forms are completed by **Wednesday 3rd March 2021**. **Tests will not be administered without a completed consent form.** Please note: students who have had coronavirus in the last 90 days will not be allowed to take a test.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SdytGq2PpkG2xjy5y4_0X_6xyltiMIPvDjHd-4h9shUQTY2NURPUFFIQU9OVes0TUtNRUxEM0Y2RS4u

Could we please also request that your child sets up a NHS login before they come into school for their test as this would help speed up the registration process. This can be done by clicking on the following link:

<https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/report-result/login-choice>

Please then make them aware of these login details. This will help reduce the registration time of each student by 5 minutes.

A phased return for students across the week

To manage the testing programme we will need to stagger students' return; their test date and their first day in school can be found below:

Testing Schedule: Test 1

Students must arrive to school on this day by the Atrium doors at their **allotted time** in school uniform. **Once their test is complete, they will return home.** **Please note:** when tests 2 and 3 are carried out in school, unless a student receives a positive test result, they will remain in school and follow their normal timetable.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	8th	9th	10th
8.30	11AX	7AX	9AX
8.55	11DX	7DX	9DX
9.20	11SX	7SX	9SX
9.45	11TX	7TX	9TX
10.10	11XA	7AY	9AY
10.35	11AY	7DY	9DY
11.00	11DY	7SY	9SY
11.25	11SY	7TY	9TY
11.50	11TY	8AX	8AY
12.15	10AX	8DX	8DY
12.40	10DX	8SX	8SY
13.05	10SX	8TX	8TY
13.30	10TX		
13.55	10AY		
14.20	10DY		
14.45	10SY		
15.10	10TY		

Students' return to face-to face teaching

Students will return to face to face teaching the day after their first test. (Unless a positive test is returned). From their return, students will follow their normal school timetable.

Tuesday 9th March	Wednesday 10th March	Thursday 11th March
All Year 10	All Year 7	All Year 9
All Year 11	Year 8: 8AX, 8DX,8SX,8TX	Year 8: 8AY, 8DY,8SY,8TY

Coronavirus Testing

In line with Government guidance, we will be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all our students as they return **from** 8 March 2021. Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests in school and test results will take about 30 minutes to process. **If at any point**

students test positive, they will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

After the 3 initial tests at school, students will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. In addition to the guidance and support offered to all students when they conduct their own tests at school, we shall be providing a video guide on how to self-administer tests at home and would encourage you and your child to watch this guide prior to taking the first home test.

How the lateral-flow testing will be organised

When students arrive on their first day of return, they will be supervised in a controlled area (the Sports Hall) before administering their own test (supervised by trained and experienced staff). Students will be tested in their form groups. Once students have had their **first** test, they will need to return home; their test result **must be negative** before returning to school the following day. Should a positive test be returned, then please follow the NHS guidance and contact the school. Once a negative test result has been received, students will then be allowed back to school the following day to follow their normal timetable. All students will be asked to complete another two Lateral Flow tests before they are asked to complete them at home. **Following tests 2 and 3, students will return to their lessons (unless a positive test result is returned). Should a positive test be returned then an individual will be isolated, and parents contacted to collect as a matter of urgency.**

Lateral-Flow Testing – the Home-testing Model

Following the first 3 onsite tests, students will be provided with home tests for regular testing. Should a student receive a positive test, in line with government guidance **they must self-isolate for 10 days**. Students must report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions on the home test kit. We would ask that students share their result if possible to help us with our track and trace system. In the case of a positive result, please contact:

pgamble@dormston.dudley.sch.uk

School Attendance

School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply. However, as a reminder, students should self-isolate and **not** come to school if they:

- have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive;
- live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive;
- are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

Face Coverings

On their return to school, in a change to previous Government guidance, students will be required to wear a face-covering in **all areas** of the school upon their return to school and **this will include classrooms**. This measure is temporary and will be in place until Easter. Medically exempt students will be asked to wear their small purple badge or lanyard as a visual communication of their medical status. Any students who refuse to wear their exemption badge or lanyard will have to accept that they will be challenged by staff. Replacement masks will be charged at 50p.

For students who are self-isolating or shielding

A small number of students will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or a positive test result;
- live with someone who has symptoms or who has tested positive and are a household contact;
- are a close contact of someone who has Coronavirus.

The advice for children who have been confirmed as **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable** is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice. CEV students will have received a letter from Public Health England.

Setting work for students who remain at home

From Monday 8 March 2021, we shall continue to provide remote learning via TEAMS and all set work will be on GO4Schools. We will provide live lessons for students wherever possible; however, the majority of work will be set on G4S.

Please note that on Thursday 4 March 2021 and Friday 5 March 2021 there will be no live lesson and students must access their work via GO4Schools. This will allow our staff to prepare themselves in school for our students return from 8 March 2021.

Finally

We are responding quickly to all requirements in school and will be sending out further information for each year group shortly. We know that as parents/carers you will have many questions and we aim to answer those in the coming days.

Can I thank you, as always, for your on-going support and express once again how delighted we are that students will be back in school within a matter of weeks.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Dixon
Head Teacher