



SJB/JRu

26 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

We hope you have all had a fabulous summer break so far. As you can probably imagine we are now gearing up for the start of the term and we just can't wait to see everyone again. Unfortunately, Covid is still around and by following the Government's guidelines we hope that you can see that we have managed to come up with a plan to ensure that we maintain a safe environment and that lessons can be commenced from day one in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Please note that masks still need to be worn on all public transport and should your son or daughter wish to continue to wear their facing covering whilst in school, this will be allowed. To further reassure you, we will be continuing with our hand sanitation and wipe down routines, we will be trying to get effective air flow through each classroom and our increased cleaning schedule will continue.

As per Government guidelines we will need to perform 2 'lateral flow tests' on your daughter/son during their first few days with us. These tests are voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

As an extra precautionary measure to ensure there is even less chance of a positive case on Monday, we are asking all students to take two Lateral Flow tests, at home, prior to returning to school. These can be picked up, free of charge, from Chemists, Doctors etc.

Whilst we are not requiring you to inform us of a negative test, this can still be registered on NHS test and trace, if a student tests positive, please follow the guidelines listed below.

We have also attached the testing programme for students, in order to minimise any disruption in returning to school.

The following year groups will be tested on **Friday 3 September**: Y11/12/13/new Y7 where consent has been given. Parents/carers should bring their son/daughter into school at the times stated on the testing programme. We are sorry that this is in the holiday, we just do not want to miss any more learning.

If a new Year 7 student is a sibling of a 11/12/13 student then you may bring them in for testing at the same time on Friday. If the sibling is in Year 8/9/10 then they can come in with the Year 7 student at their stated time.

ALL STUDENTS WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL AS NORMAL on **Monday 6 September** and testing will be completed during the school day.

Those taking the test, in school, will be supervised by trained staff whilst the student conducts the swab by themselves. The 'lateral flow' tests are a quick and easy swab of the nose.

Please can you complete the attached consent statement and return it, via email to covid@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk, alternatively, you can return the form, in person, to the school office by **Wednesday 1 September** at the latest. If you do not wish your son/daughter to do the test, please indicate this on the form. Please note that we are only asking for consent from our new Y7 intake as we have kept all previous consent forms for other year groups. However, if you have not previously given consent but now wish to do so please complete and return the form.

2.

We know these tests work; in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

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 will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, 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?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student 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 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?

As of August 16 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. They will be advised to take a PCR test instead. 18 year olds will be treated as children until 4 months after their 18th birthday.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Dene Magna 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Any child off school due to Covid should access remote learning via Google Classroom/Google Meets.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Brady
Headteacher

Schedule for Testing Students (tests will be conducted 3-5 days apart):

Ideally, please come along at:

	9am	10.30am	12.00	1.30pm
Friday 3 September (Inset)	11D1/11D2/11F1/ 11J1/11V1	11F2/11W2/11W1	Y13\Y12	Y7

If you cannot make it at the above times, please come along when you can, we do understand work commitments! Someone will be here until 3.30pm.

Students should queue in the quiet area.

	Start in RFL			
Monday 6 September	Y10	Y9	Y8	
Tuesday 7 September	Catch up session	2nd test		
Wednesday 8 September	Y11	Y13/Y12	Y7	
Thursday 9 September	Y10	Y9	Y8	
Friday 10 September	Catch up sessions			

Students should catch the school bus in the normal way.

Masks should be worn on all public transport.

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of students and under 16s, students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 08/07/2021.

2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.

3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.

4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.

5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.

6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.

7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.

8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.

Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print)		
Tutor group (put unknown if you do not know)		
Date of Birth		
Gender at birth		
Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?		
Home Postcode		
Email Address		
Mobile Number		
Name of parent or guardian if under 16 (print)		
I consent to my son/daughter having the 'lateral flow test done' (please mark as applicable)	Yes	No
Signature		
Date		
Relationship to child if under 16		