



Alameda Middle School

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13th July 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for KS3 pupils

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is being sent to you following Government guidance announced on 7th July 2021. Schools have been asked to conduct lateral flow device (LFD) testing on site, for all KS3 pupils, upon return to school in September.

Please be aware, that along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests are performed on our staff and KS3 pupils for **those without coronavirus symptoms** to reduce the risk and help everyone to remain safe.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the virus from spreading and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

It is also important to note that participation is voluntary, but we (and DfE) would strongly encourage staff and pupils to take part. This is to help to break links by identifying those who may unknowingly be carrying the virus. Therefore, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils who have agreed, will be tested twice in school, three to five days apart and this will then move to home testing.

We must emphasise that the testing programme is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to participate. However, pupils will not need to have had a test in order to return to school and will return in line with their year group.

In preparation for the September testing:

- If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the registration and consent statement (one per pupil). This is secure once it has been submitted [CONSENT FORM](#). Alternatively, you can complete the enclosed form and return it to the school office via email office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk
- If you completed the form when your child was in Year 7 and are happy for the school to test your child again, then *do nothing*, as we have the consent form already
- If you completed the form when your child was in Year 7 and *do not want them to be tested*, then please email the office to inform us. Subject: 'LFD Consent' office@alamedamiddleschool.org.uk

Testing Procedure for LFD testing on Monday 6th September

Arrive at the back gate from the Alameda walk.

Queue on the grassed area on the side along the fencing

To be collected from the queue and escorted to the library

Library- sit in groups on the floor, watch the LFD procedure video, sanitize, collect registration card

Hall- testing – 3 stations as before, with 3 marked waiting places

Leave through the door leading to the music room

Leave the site via the side gate with button gate release

To help pupils to visualise the process, we have attached a page with photographs showing the above procedure.

Arrival Times:

In order for the process to be as efficient as possible, please could your child arrive at school **through the back gate on the Alameda Walk**, at the following times:

Year 8

Arrival by surname in alphabetical order

A – G 8:00 am

H – N 9:00 am

O – Z 10:00 am

Year 7

Arrival by surname in alphabetical order

A – C 11:00 am

D – K 12:00 noon

L – R 1:00 pm

S – Z 2:00 pm

We have added a 'frequently asked questions section at the end of this letter. Also enclosed is a photographic representation of the system we had previously put in place in school, instructions on how to perform the swab test and privacy notice.

Please be assured that the testing of KS3 pupils and staff back in March 2021, was a very calm and efficient procedure with our trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your throat and nose. For those under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results will be sent to the contact details of the parent or carer who is listed on the consent form once the registration and results are processed. Please see FAQ regarding positive and negative results.

Validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England have shown the test to have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has a higher viral load. Therefore, there is a need to test frequently and validate any positive result with a PCR test.

You may find some of the frequently asked questions at the end of this communication useful. Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format, or if you have any questions please contact the school office.

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause concern for some children with SEND needs. In the first instance, please contact Ms Cannon to discuss any concerns and agree strategies to help reduce anxiety. We will be happy to put in place any reasonable adjustments.

This letter can also be found on the school website and in the 'Noticeboard' icon in Edulink One.

Thank you again for your continued support throughout this difficult period.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Barrows
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs D Fickling
Business Manager

Frequently asked questions

How long does the test take?

Once pupils have performed the swab of their throat and nose, it then takes a further 30 minutes for the device to show a result. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for any reason.

When and how will I be notified of the results?

With so many pupils being tested, it can take a while for us to register the result. If the test is positive, we will immediately call to tell you, otherwise you will receive an email from the NHS via the email address you provided in your consent form.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be notified and will need to follow PHE guidance and self-isolate for 10 days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

What happens if the test is negative?

After the initial test, pupils will go home while we wait for the results. If the test is negative, you will be able to come school the following day and take part in the next scheduled test in school.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please note pupils and members of staff will not need to have an LFD test if they have tested positive following a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) swab test within the **previous 90 days**.