

31st December 2020

# NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and Pupils

Dear Parents,

I hope you and all of your families have enjoyed Christmas and the festive period as much as possible in these strange and restrictive times.

As we have been doing since this pandemic broke in March, we are working hard to keep Beeston as safe as possible keeping fully abreast of all the Government and various organisations advice and guidance. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as ‘lateral flow tests’.

Alongside the other extensive protective measures, we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing on a weekly basis we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep Beeston open to all as safely as possible. The test is voluntary however, we would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and pupils who want to participate from the week commencing 4 January 2021.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below and the enclosed consent statement one per pupil for families with more than one child at the school and return it to the school office via email at covid@beestonhall.co.uk by 2pm Monday 4th January 2021.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The ‘lateral flow’ tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around 30 to 40 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Year 7 and Year 8 parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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.

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# Registration

To process the test, we will register all participating pupils and staff

To complete this registration please fill in the form below and complete the enclosed consent statement.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Name**  |  |
| **Last Name**  |  |
| **Date of Birth**  |  |
| **Gender at birth**  |  |
| **Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?**  |  |
| **Today’s date**  |  |
| **Home Postcode**  |  |
| **Email Address**  |  |
| **Mobile Number**  |  |

# What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils 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). Beeston will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. Drive through test centre sites generally produce results faster than using a home test kit and putting it in the post.

During this time while the person waits 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 pupil 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 pupils 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?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to Beeston 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 Beeston 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 my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Beeston 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01263 837 324 or email office@beestonhall.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Fred de Falbe