

Kirkbie Kendal School

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PHn/BPe

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware from my letter sent yesterday there are significant changes directed by the Government for schools to implement in the week commencing 4th January 2021. The changes are to facilitate COVID-19 Lateral Flow Testing (see information below), of all school staff and students as appropriate. Students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will complete work at home and return to face to face lessons in school on Monday 11th January.

The principle of testing students and staff after the Christmas break is a good one because it will enable asymptomatic cases to be identified and start to isolate. This therefore reduces CV-19 transmission in school, at home and in the wider community.

INSET Day Monday 4th January 2021. THIS IS A CHANGE

In order that we can plan for and train school staff for the testing process, prepare the testing area, arrange logistics, test school staff and Year 13 students, the Government has advised that 4th January can be an INSET day in school. **Therefore Monday 4th January will be an INSET day** and staff will be in school but no students apart from Year 13 for testing (see below). On Tuesday 5th January, teachers will start teaching Year 11 and 13 and providing work on Google Classroom.

Lateral Flow Testing in School

Aim and Process

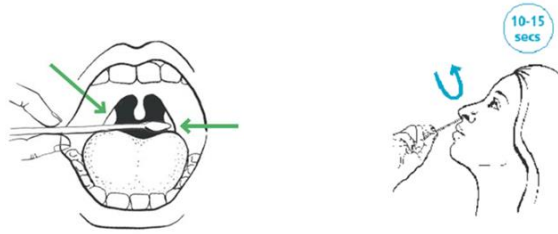
Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) are rapid tests that can process COVID-19 samples on site without the need for laboratory equipment and are able to generate results in around half an hour. They help identify COVID-19 infections for asymptomatic people (those who are infected but do not display symptoms). The fast turnaround of these tests allows people who test positive to self-isolate quickly and further reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

On arrival in school, students and staff should wear a face covering at all times. They will be welcomed to the test area and provided with information on how to register and complete the test.

The tests involve taking a swab from the back of the throat and nose. This can be done by the person themselves if they are 12 years of age or older.

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The sample taken is transferred to an absorbent pad on the testing device by a trained test assistant. After half an hour this then shows the result in a small window (similar to a pregnancy test).

Step by step instructions will be provided to all, together with support throughout the process.

Following each test, staff will let each person know how and when they will receive their result.

If a test is positive, the person will need to take a confirmatory PCR test. A PCR test is conducted in the same way by taking a swab from the throat and nose, but this sample is required to be sent away for laboratory testing.

In the case of a positive LFD test, we would require parents/carers to collect their child or allow them to walk home. They should return home and isolate immediately. Their household will also need to self-isolate as soon as possible. If their confirmatory PCR is positive, their household will need to continue to self-isolate and NHS Test and Trace may be in touch to contact trace.

The whole process is guided and samples processed by trained personnel following safe operating procedures and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).

The tests are completely voluntary, free of charge and will require parental consent for students (see accompanying instructions on how to give consent via Edulink). Consent can be withdrawn by the parent or student at any time.

We still have no confirmation as to when test kits will arrive in school, therefore the following arrangements are subject to change but I thought you would like to know our current plans for the first week back.

Monday 4th January 2021

Year 13 should come in for tests in the afternoon between 1.00 pm and 1.30 pm and go home after testing. There will be no lessons on Monday. Students should go directly to the main yard, please, where staff will meet them and guide them through the process.

13.1: Arrive at 1.00 pm

13.2: Arrive at 1.15 pm

13.3: Arrive at 1.30 pm

If a student tests positive then they would need to start isolation and take a second test. If they test negative they will attend lessons from Tuesday.

The testing before attending lessons on Tuesday at 8.45 am is not compulsory. However, we encourage students to take a test.

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Year 11 students will be asked to arrive in school with a staggered arrival time from 8.30am.

11.1 arrive at 8.30 am

11.2 arrive at 9.00 am

11.3 arrive at 9.30 am

11.4 arrive at 10.00 am

11.5 arrive at 10.30 am

11.6 arrive at 11.00 am

After testing, if students test negative then they go to their lessons in school. If, however, the test result is positive then students will go home to start isolation and take a second test. The second test is sent off to a lab for analysis. If the result returns negative, students may return to school. If the second test result is positive they will need to self-isolate for 10 days with their household. Lessons will, therefore, not be full classes until all Year 11 students have arrived and completed testing (circa 11.30am). Testing is not compulsory but is advised. Any students that are not going to take a test are expected to attend lessons from 11.30 am.

If you are a critical worker and require your child to be supervised between 8.45 am and 2.55 pm, completing the online work, then please email hronan@kksa.co.uk with the days that you require. If it is safe for your child to work from home then they should do so. Children of critical workers and vulnerable students will be supervised from 8.45 am onwards, kept socially distanced from other students and will be tested from 1.00 pm on Tuesday onwards. If the test result is positive, students will need to be collected or allowed to walk home directly to start isolation with their household and carry out a second test. If this result returns negative then students may return to school and household isolation stops. If the second test result returns as positive students will need to self-isolate for 10 days with their household. There will be 'catch-up' testing sessions available for children of critical workers not in school on Tuesday.

Wednesday 5th January 2021

Year 10 and 12 students with exams throughout the week commencing 11th January will attend a revision session and will be offered tests prior to lessons. A separate letter has been sent to students and parent/carers regarding these sessions.

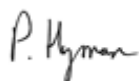
Week commencing 11th January 2021

School will be ready for the serial-testing following any close contact with a positive case. All students start face to face lessons on Monday 11th January.

Please be aware that as information is still arriving these plans are subject to change

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Hyman
Headteacher