

29 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Mass testing of students returning to school – Y7-11 letter

The announcement made by the Prime Minister on Wednesday of this week indicated that the government are targeting Monday, 8th March 2021 as the earliest date that students could return to schools in England. The government also announced that when students do return, they are fully committed to schools carrying out a mass asymptomatic testing programme of all returning students who have due consent to be tested.

When your son does return to school, he will be entitled to receive two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests undertaken 3 to 5 days apart. Your son will be required to self-administer swabs from his tonsils and nostril which will be supervised by a fully trained member of the school staff or other trained adult. These swabs will then be tested for the presence of COVID-19. Results will be reported to the mobile number of the main parental contact held on record and any students with a positive result will be required to self-isolate with immediate effect. Any close contacts of a student who has tested positive for Covid-19 will also be asked to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of contact even if they themselves have received a negative test result. Currently the daily close contact testing programme has been put on hold by the government.

Students who are currently attending school and have already participated in the COVID testing programme will be tested again and parents / carers will need to provide consent via AIM.

For students in Years 7 through to Year 11 to be tested, consent must be provided by parents / carers. We will be seeking consent using the AIM platform. From Monday 1st February 2021, when logging into the AIM homepage, parents / carers will be presented with a consent form for testing and will need to select either, 'I consent' or 'I do not consent' before the home page can be accessed. If the consent form does not appear, please try logging out and back in again. We ask that all parents / carers complete this form by the end of this term – Friday, February 12th 2021. Details of the terms of consent can be found below and a link to the privacy notice can be found [here](#). The privacy notice contains details of all the personal data that will be collected as part of the process.

Although participation in this mass testing programme will help to reduce the risk of virus transmission within NSB, parents / carers do have the right to not provide consent for their child's participation in this testing programme and if this is the case their child will still be entitled to attend school. Consent can also be withdrawn by parents / carers at any time prior to the testing taking place.

Please note that if your son has previously tested positive for COVID-19, the current guidance is that he can still participate in the testing programme and is encouraged to do so. Please note that this is a change from the initial guidance issued by the government which suggested you should not take another test within 90 days of a positive PCR test result.

When we are provided with more information about the full re-opening of the school, we will write to parents / carers with specific details of how we will carry out the mass testing, however, by providing consent now, we are able to determine the overall numbers who will be part of the testing programme.

If you have any questions relating to the testing, then please email the school's main reception on nsb_reception@nsb.northants.sch.uk

Finally, I would like to remind you that if your son experiences any Covid-19 symptoms, then [government guidelines to self-isolate](#) must be followed, even if he has had a recent negative lateral flow test. He should also then be booked in to receive a full PCR test.

Yours sincerely,

M J Edwards
Senior Deputy Headmaster

Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 29th January 2021 and the attached Privacy Notice.
2. 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 my child having a nose and throat swab for lateral flow tests. My child will self-swab if my child is able to, otherwise I understand that assistance is available. In the case of under 16s or pupils who are not able to provide informed consent, I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate and self-swab (with assistance if required).
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for my child.
5. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my child's result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive case. A text will be sent to the mobile number of the main contact of my child, confirming the outcome of the test.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that my child is removed from the school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
8. I consent that my child will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result for 10 days from the date of the positive test result.
9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive then my child will also need to self-isolate for 10 days from the last date of contact with that child.