



Castle Donington College

Principal: Mrs Julie Sheppard

Vice Principal: Mr Nathan Barratt
Assistant Principal: Mr Ben Wilkinson

20/1/2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Pupils

Dear Parent or Guardian,

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 devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our College.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to College to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff, key worker children and vulnerable pupils that are attending College and all other pupils on their return.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly using the contact details provided on the consent form. The College will inform the pupil of a positive test result. The pupil/parent/guardian will also receive a [text/email] notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system provided those details are on the consent form. Tests are free of charge.

Continued

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by College and will need return to home to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. College will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in College and resume their activities as normal. Results will be communicated via text/email to the details provided on the consent form.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in College who tests positive?

The staff member or pupil will be notified that they are a close contact by the College. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. Staff members and pupils will then have to self-isolate in line with the current government guidelines.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at College is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions complete this [form](#)

Our guide to rapid testing can be seen here https://youtu.be/4lQcs_NHQG8

Yours faithfully,



Nathan Barratt
Team Leader
Castle Donington College Rapid Testing Centre