



26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carer

COVID-19: Asymptomatic Testing for Students

We are working to keep Prince Henry's as safe as possible. You will have heard that 'mass testing' for those without coronavirus symptoms is being offered to students as they return to school during the next few weeks.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. We are advised that by testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. Participation in our testing programme is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to participate.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, once you have read all the information below, please give your consent through the link provided **at the bottom of this letter**. Could I ask that if you do not want your child to participate you still complete the online form so we can demonstrate that we have offered all students a test.

Students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your child's nose and throat. Once they have completed their third test, and understand how the test works, our students will be issued with a home testing kit so they can continue to test themselves twice per week at home.

Further information will follow closer to when home testing commences. We anticipate that the three tests which also form training for the home testing will have been completed by Tuesday 16th – Thursday 18th March, depending on your child's year group.

What if a student tests positive?

The results will be communicated to the email and mobile phone number you identify when submitting your consent information. If your child tests positive after the second or third test, when they are in school, they will need to return home to self-isolate.

Students testing positive through the home lateral flow test 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). In some instances, school may be able to provide these tests, but it is more likely that you will be asked to book a test at a local COVID-19 testing centre. We recommend that you visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. While they wait for the PCR result (via text/email) your child 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.

A further, confirmatory, PCR test is not required if the positive test was administered through the in-school testing process.

What happens if the test is negative?

The second and third tests will be conducted once your child has returned to school. If these test results are negative your child will be able to stay in school and continue their activities as normal. A student will only be contacted in school if they test positive on a lateral flow test. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The 'mass testing' and home testing of students 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact school through the email address info@princehenrys.co.uk or the school phone number 01943 463524.

Consent?

Please complete the online consent form by **3.00pm** on **Wednesday 3rd March** via [this link](#). For information regarding data privacy, please view the privacy notices for [on-site testing](#) and for [home testing](#).

Unfortunately, due to slightly different guidance at this stage, those students who have been attending the vulnerable student / critical worker provision will also need to provide consent and submit their information again.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Rowbottom
Associate Headteacher