

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Staff and Pupils

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I wrote to you at the beginning of the school holidays with details of the planned changes that will happen for secondary aged pupils from the 4th of January. This involves Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 working remotely and following their normal timetables through Google Meets for the first week and returning to face-to-face teaching from Monday 11th January. Further information will be with you shortly to ensure that all pupils can access Google Meets during that first week. If you require hard copies, you should have already informed the school office [<mailto:avantihall@avanti.org.uk>] so that these can be delivered out to you on the first day. All other year groups are expected to be in school. At the time of writing this letter, we have had no further updates of any changes to the ones already listed in my previous letter.

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker Covid-19 tests, and our school will be starting this in January. This is only for pupils in the secondary phase and is entirely voluntary. The NHS Test and Trace team will be testing staff once a week who want to participate from 4th January. In addition, the programme will help pupils to stay in education, by enabling close contacts of someone who tests positive to stay in school if they do a daily test for seven days. This is known as 'serial testing'.

Along with the other measures we are taking, **these tests will help staff and pupils to work safely**. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so by supporting them to self-isolate we will save lives and help keep our school open and as safe as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days, and the test is negative. If not, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school 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.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the form below, and the enclosed consent statement** (one per pupil) and return it to the school office via email or in person if that is easier.

The test will be supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can assist with taking the swab.

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be informed.

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories in partnership with Oxford University and is totally safe, with a 99.8% specificity. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Registration

In order to process the test, we will register all participating pupils. In order to complete this registration please fill in the form below **and** complete the enclosed consent form.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in testing sites) to confirm the positive result, they will be able to do this at school or take a test kit home. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate until they get their result. If it is negative, the pupils can return to school.

If the result of this secondary test is positive, the pupil and household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines. **Please inform school as soon as you receive this test result.**

We will continue to support pupils with their education remotely. We recognise this may be disruptive for your family but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus, and there is financial support available via the NHS app. Pupils might need collecting from school, so please discuss this with them. There is more advice on self-isolation and home learning on www.Gov.uk.

What if a pupil tests 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 in the first 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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 of change to your 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 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 01392 757371 or email avantihall@avanti.org.uk.

Best wishes,



Phil Arnold, Principal

Covid-19 Testing for Pupils - Pupil Registration Form

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the form below, and the enclosed consent statement** (one per pupil) and return it to the school office via email or in person if that is easier.

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	

Please return to the School Office either by hand or by email using avanihall@avanti.org.uk

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.