

Details of testing in schools – the following information is published by the government

The test will be supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating.

Participation is voluntary and requires your consent. If you would like to access testing in school please complete the online consent form.

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.

What if I test positive?

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. You will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in testing sites) to confirm the positive result. During this time, you will need to self-isolate until you get your result. If it is negative, you can return to your normal activities at school.

*If the result of this secondary PCR test is positive you will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines. **Please inform school as soon as you receive this test result.** We recognise this may be disruptive for you and your family but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus. There is more advice on self-isolation on Gov.uk.*

What if I test negative?

You will be able to stay in school and resume your activities as normal. You will only be contacted if you test positive in the first test.

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 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.

What if I develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If you develop 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) you 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>.

Thank you for your ongoing hard work and support in such trying times. If you have any questions about serial testing for staff please contact Mr A Wall, Deputy head on a.wall@minster.notts.sch.uk.