



Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School

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NHS Test and Trace: Mass COVID-19 testing for staff and pupils

Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep TWGGS open as safely as possible. More information is given below.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please read carefully the consent details at the end of this document and complete the Google form (once for each child). Details follow the nine points of consent.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Pupils 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). TWGGS may be able to provide some of these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) pupils will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result, the pupil and their family will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Pupils will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive using a Lateral Flow Test (LFT)?

A close contact of someone in school who tests positive using a Lateral Flow Test will need to self-isolate at home until the result of their contact's PCR test is known; if the PCR test result **confirms** the LFT positive result, close contacts of the person with coronavirus will need to continue to self-isolate at home for the

remainder of the ten day isolation period. If the PCR test result is negative, the test subject and their close contacts can return to school.

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 or change to their 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 our 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 school office on 01892 520902 or email admin@twggs.kent.sch.uk

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students 16 and over, and staff. It should be completed as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please respond once for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students 16 and over** can respond themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

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 31/12/2020.
2. In the case of under 16s, 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 having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test, I will not be contacted by the school except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 days.

If you are happy to give consent to have your child tested, or for you to be tested if you are over 16, then please give your informed consent via the Google form, accessed here

<https://forms.gle/ViwMqAAMsZtdmVly9>