

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

14 December 2021

For the attention of parents of students aged 16 or over (on 1 January 2022)

Headteacher:
Mr D A Mackenzie
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Dear Parents

COVID-19 Update

In light of recent updates to government guidance, the school has reviewed its risk assessment accordingly. In addition to the control measures already in place, the following additional measures will be implemented with immediate effect:

- All year group assemblies have been suspended until the end of the term.
- All visitors will be requested to take a LFD test before arriving on-site.
- Upcoming events: the pantomime (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week) is planned to go ahead, albeit with restrictions and control measures in place. We will, however, continue to monitor the situation and change plans if necessary. The Carol Concert (on Monday 20 December) and assemblies due to take place in the Sports Hall on the last day of term have been cancelled.
- From 14 December (in line with government guidance) close contacts of a positive Covid-19 case will no longer need to self-isolate if they are fully vaccinated (two doses) or aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status; they will instead be required to take a daily LFD test for seven days and, provided the results are negative, may go about their normal business.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with the home testing arrangements this term. Students have been provided with further test kit(s) to ensure that this can continue. Tests should continue to be reported routinely to the [NHS](#) and [FHS](#) for each result.

We would like to remind you that students experiencing symptoms should not attend school and should remain at home pending a PCR test. If the result is negative, they may return to school as normal.

Return to School Testing (January 2022)

In order to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education, the government has asked all schools to make the necessary arrangements for all staff and students to receive **one Covid-19 test in school** upon their return in January 2022. After receiving their on-site test, students are asked to continue with twice weekly home testing as usual. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Only students with the appropriate consent will be tested. As your child is aged 16 or over on 1 January 2022, his/her consent to be tested is required. We will shortly be sending students aged 16 or over a letter (via Class Charts Messenger) containing





information about testing and a link to an online consent form to enable them to complete and return the form if they are happy to be tested. A copy of the information is enclosed with this letter. I would encourage you to discuss testing with your son/daughter to support him/her in making an informed decision.

For more information on how data will be shared as part of this testing process, please refer to the Privacy Notice and Data Protection FAQs on the the [FHS Covid-19 Test Centre page](#) of the school website.

We will send further details about the timetable for testing on 5 January 2022 shortly. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your child's returned consent form no later than 9am on 21 December 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr D A Mackenzie
Headteacher



Covid-19 Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) at FHS

FAQs

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. The school is, therefore, strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

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/or throat. Results (which take around 15-30 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant and/or parent.

The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student/parent will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, he/she will need to self-isolate immediately and a [confirmatory PCR test](#) ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the student can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the student should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

What happens if the test is negative?

A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. Those who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if a student has been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The responsibility for contact tracing is now undertaken by NHS Test & Trace and you are advised to be familiar with the [latest guidelines here](#).

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 (including a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) he/she must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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Dear Student

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Only students with the appropriate consent will be tested. **As you will be 16 or over (as at 1 January 2022), your consent to be tested is required.** Please note that even if you have previously indicated your consent during this school year, we are asking that you confirm your consent for the January 2022 return to school testing to ensure all records are in order.

If you are happy to be tested, please fill in the brief online consent form via the following link. **It is vital that you return your consent no later than 9:00am on 21 December 2021.**

- Consent Form for Students aged 16+

For more information on how your data will be shared as part of this testing process, please refer to the Privacy Notice and Data Protection FAQs on the the [FHS Covid-19 Test Centre page](#) of the school website.

We will send you further details about the timetable for testing on 5 January 2022 in due course. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving your returned consent form no later than 21 December 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr D A Mackenzie
Headteacher





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The school will inform you of a positive test result and you will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

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If you test positive on a lateral flow device, you will need to self-isolate immediately and a [confirmatory PCR test](#) ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

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A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. If you test negative you will be able to stay in school and resume activities as normal. You will be informed of a negative test results via text/email.

What if I have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

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