



THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

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25th February 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students

Dear Parent or Guardian

As I am sure you are aware students will begin returning to school from 8th March 2021, however before they are able to return, schools have been directed to test all students. One negative test is required before students are able to commence lessons and then two further tests will take place approximately 3-5 days after the initial test. We strongly recommend that these tests are taken for the safety of students and the wider community. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging all students to be tested at school.

Plan for testing

Students will initially be invited in on an allocated day in year group 'bubbles' and these timings will be communicated in the next few days. After students have taken their first lateral flow test they will return home to on-line lessons. Once students have received their first negative test result they will commence face to face lessons in school the following day. The second and third lateral flow test will take place during the normal school day, once again in student year group 'bubbles.'

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 throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. 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 registered mobile number/email address will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

Consent

In order for the school to commence testing of our students we will need a consent form completed. The consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases.

Consent relates to the following groups of students:

For pupils and students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

Students over 18 must complete this form themselves.

For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.



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As I am sure you can appreciate the logistics for completing the tests in school so that we can get all year groups back to the classroom as quickly as possible are going to be very demanding and we would be very grateful if you could complete the consent form as soon as possible and by no later than Monday 1st March 2021. Please follow the link below to the consent form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZSq7np2qSDMfGklzKGIYjQ8oanI5kJDcvCO3PkfW6QFzNoA/viewform?usp=sf_link

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by School and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. If a pupil tests positive after the first test then you will need to obtain a test as pupils will be sent home immediately after they have completed their first test. Should a pupil test positive on their second or third test then the School will be able to provide the PCR test kits to perform at home.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you should inform us immediately and they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative after tests 2 and 3 will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. All pupils will return home after the first test. Pupils 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 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 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>.

We will support our pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Ms S Hay
Headteacher



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