

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Following our recent communications, I am writing today regarding the Covid-19 tests that we will be offering to all students at school when we return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We are asking for your permission for your young person to be tested on their return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, and over the next 3 weeks should they come in to contact with a positive case.

The government has asked secondary schools to offer Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests,' that provide a result within half an hour. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms, so by introducing testing we will improve our ability to stop the virus from spreading within school.

As you know we have implemented lots of protective measures at the Academy to reduce the risk (hand washing, year group bubbles, remote learning), and we welcome these tests as an additional protective measure that will help keep everyone safe.

The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible. Please see **the attached information (B)**, to see how easy it is for your young person to take the test.

Your young person will be asked to take a test from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, and if ever they come into contact with a positive case.

### **What do I need to do now?**

1. Please read the accompanying **NHS Test and Trace leaflet called 'How to do your test' (B)** and share this with your young person to explain what will happen.
2. Please read the additional information on 'How will our process work?' at the end of this letter for more details on how we will handle different situations so you are fully informed.
3. **Please read the information attached (C)** or visit <https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid> to read the information on consent and our privacy notice.

Principal - Anthony Williams BSc Hons, NPQH, MEd  
Executive Principal - Lynne Dawes BSc Hons, MA



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4. If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your young person to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation ahead of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- The quickest and easiest way to do this is by opening your MyChildAtSchool app, go to the parental consent section and click the slider to green to grant consent. You can find copies of all of the important information including the full consent form in the Important Documents Section.
  - Please fill in the attached form, and return it by email to [info@oasisenfield.org](mailto:info@oasisenfield.org). We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate from Monday 8th March.

We are urging all families to agree to this safe and quick test when they return to school, and if they should come into contact with a confirmed case. If you do not give your permission, your young person should attend school as normal and continue to follow all other safety precautions. Should they come into contact with a confirmed case, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days

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. Please contact us by email at [info@oasisenfield.org](mailto:info@oasisenfield.org)

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Williams  
Principal  
Oasis Academy Enfield

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## Covid-19 Testing within school

### How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested as they return from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- Students will then be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. They will need to self-isolate for ten days.
- 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.
- Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.
- Should a student or staff member receive a positive test, they will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day. You should call 119 to book a follow-up test. Once they have had the further test, they will need to self-isolate while they await the result. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.
- Should a student or staff member receive a negative test, they will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student 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 may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.
- Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show that the tests are accurate in identifying a case.

The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up

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cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

### **What if a close contact at school tests positive?**

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate under the current rules.

If they do not want to take the test, 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.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your young person 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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