

8th January 2020

Rapid Covid Testing

Dear Parents & Carers,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices.' This letter is to provide parents and carers with more information about the testing programme at KAA.

Originally we were planning to test all students in the first two weeks of January, but plans have been delayed until the full return of all students to school, which will be February half term at the earliest. However, mass testing arrangements will be an important part of returning students to school safely, so we are keen to get the ball rolling with our new systems. Students and staff coming in for the contingency school can benefit from testing straight away.

Why are schools testing staff and students?

One in three people have the virus without symptoms (they are asymptomatic) so could be spreading the virus unknowingly. New technology that allows for rapid testing means that we can now introduce initial testing of staff and students who may be asymptomatic, then daily testing for staff or students who are identified as contacts of positive cases. Testing for people who are identified as contacts of positive cases will also mean that they do not need to isolate and can stay in face-to-face education.

This is a significant development that will help to identify positive cases more quickly, break the chains of transmission and reduce the disruption that so many students have faced to their education in recent months. **Testing will make KAA safer for staff and students** and will therefore protect our families at home too. We will of course continue to put in place a range of protective measures to minimise the risk of transmission at KAA (social distancing, class bubbles, masks etc) but testing will make the school even safer.

We therefore strongly encourage those returning to KAA to be tested, to increase the safety of the school for the whole KAA community.

Consent for Testing

I would be grateful if parents could read this simple online form and **give their consent** to their child participating in these arrangements, which are standard in all UK schools. We will not be able to test a student without this consent form being completed.

Testing Consent Form: <https://forms.gle/9B3NmstXGiFXWbx16>

Who needs to complete the consent form?

For students younger than 16 years this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent and can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18. For any 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.**

Further information

Some further information about how testing works is provided below, and we have created a page on our website with more information: <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/rapid-covid-testing/>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions at info@kaa.org.uk.

Best wishes,



Niall Dumigan
Assistant Principal

How does testing work?

Who can be tested?

We will be looking to test all staff and students currently on site for Contingency School, and then all students and staff before they return to school at the end of lockdown. In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested daily for seven days instead of isolating and missing school.

We can only provide tests for KAA students and staff. Other family members cannot be tested at KAA and should instead visit <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/council-services-and-disruption-updates/covid-19-testing-and-tracing> to get information about community testing for non-symptomatic individuals

How do the tests work?

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. 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 student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. We will not routinely notify parents where a test result is negative.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by KAA 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. KAA will be able to provide these 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 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 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 students are under 13, the message will be sent to the parent's phone instead.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at KAA 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>.