



# PARK HIGH SCHOOL

22 July 2021

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Year 7 Students

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am writing to outline and offer further information regarding onsite asymptomatic testing for Year 7 students in September.

You may likely already be aware of COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices' (LFD's). This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Park High.

Our staff are aware that you and your child may be anxious about this process, and we have taken great steps to try and ensure that the experience is clear and as quick as possible.

### Plan for testing

We will be expecting to test all secondary school and sixth form age students as they return to school following the summer holiday. Year 7 students are requested to take their test at the following times on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**. This will also mean that our planned full first day will now be **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**.

Time	Form	Tutor
9-10am	7AD (a)	Mrs Dassanayake
	7AG (b)	Mr Baig
	7EA (c)	Ms Arsenieva
10-11am	7FF (d)	Miss Sakkaf
	7JF (e)	Mr Frankcom
	7MK (f)	Miss Kerai
11am-12pm	7AP (g)	Mr Potts
	7SN (h)	Miss Samani
	7WN (i)	Mrs Wilson

Your child should attend via the Thistlecroft entrance and will leave via Burnell Gardens exit and into Centenary Park. We are unable to accommodate parents or carers on site, but you can wait in Centenary Park to collect your child. As this will be the first time your child is taking a test onsite, we cannot confirm how long the process will take. Your child should only attend school on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for their allocated period of testing. You should receive your test result within 24 hours. If it is negative you child may attend school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Students will receive a second test in school on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. They can attend school as normal and we will organise the testing within lesson times.

Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1PL Tel: [020 8952 2803](tel:02089522803) Fax: 020 8952 6975 [www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk](http://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk)

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Registered office: Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, HA7 1PL



## **Frequently asked questions**

### **How to I prepare for the test?**

We recommend talking through the process in advance with your child. We have attached a visual guide to this letter. It may also be helpful to try and take an at-home LFD test over the summer holiday. Anyone can request an LFD test kit from your local pharmacy or from GOV.UK [here](#).

### **Do I need to give consent for my child to take the test?**

Only a parent or carer can give consent for a child under 16 years to take an LFD test onsite. We offer two options to complete this- either through our online form available [here](#) or you can complete a paper copy of the form, attached to this letter. Any testing is consent based and we will ensure we have this before any testing is completed.

### **What if my child is reluctant to test, despite having consent from a parent?**

Our staff will not force any child to take a test. We will try and reassure your child and offer them support and guidance to complete a test.

### **Will my child be tested if I have not given consent?**

No.

### **Can my child attend school if they have not taken a test?**

Testing is recommended but will only be undertaken with consent. Your child will not be refused attendance for not taking part. If your child has symptoms they must, however, isolate as detailed below.

### **Can I accompany my child to take the test onsite?**

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate this but parents or carers may wait in Centenary Park for their child to complete their test on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

### **Does my child need to wear school uniform?**

Yes- we are expecting all students to wear full school uniform.

### **How do 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 both nostrils. Results will be shared directly with the details completed via registration. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

### **How will my child know what to do?**

We have organised our testing so that Year 7 complete their testing separately to the rest of the school. We will also have more staff available to help and guide them.

### **How will I receive my child's test results?**

Your child will need to register their unique barcode in order to receive their results. To do this, they will need to have important information with them when they complete their test. Ideally, they will also need access to a smart phone to complete the registration onsite. Your child will need to record the following at registration:

- name
- gender
- date of birth
- ethnic group
- parent email address (to receive test results)



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- parent mobile phone number (to receive test results)
- home address

### What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they 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. **The school will contact you as soon as possible to inform you if the test is positive.**

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?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Park High 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>.

### What happens if my child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive?

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

### Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection. Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

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Headteacher Mrs Colette O'Dwyer

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Further information about our procedures and protocols for COVID- related actions are available on our school website [here](#). Please note that these are subject to change in response to the latest government guidelines.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KW', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Karen Wilkinson  
**Designate Deputy Headteacher**