



## CARLETON HIGH SCHOOL

**Carleton High School**

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13 December 2021

### **Re: COVID-19 Testing for Students in Secondary Schools, January 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The government is once again asking all secondary schools to carry out lateral flow testing for COVID-19 when students return in January in order to detect those who may have the virus but do not have any symptoms. We are now able to provide you with more details regarding our return to school in January and the testing process.

#### **Return to School - Start Date**

All students will return to school on **Tuesday 4 January**. We recommend that staff and students conduct a lateral flow test (LFT) on Monday 3 January prior to the new term.

#### **Covid-19 Testing**

In addition to this, we will establish and run an Assisted Testing Site from **8.00am on 4 January** to carry out a LFT for any students for whom we have parental consent.

I would like to emphasise that it is a personal choice for the family of each student as to whether to take part in this testing. I should also emphasise that **these tests are only for individuals who do not have symptoms of COVID-19**; anyone who has symptoms must **not** come into school and should arrange to have a PCR test.

The tests will be supervised by trained adults. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to do and now only involve a swab of the nose. An adult will oversee the process, but all students will self-administer the test.

#### **Consent**

To give consent for your child to take part in this testing programme **we require new consent**. Please visit <https://carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk/y7covidconsent>, read the information and complete the online form by **4pm on Wednesday, 15 December**.

If your child has had Covid-19 after **6 October 2021**, then please do not fill in the new consent form as they may receive a false positive result and therefore they cannot take part in testing in January.

Tests will be carried out from 8.00am during Tuesday 4 January; students for whom we have new consent upon arrival at school should go to the sports hall in order for the LFT to be conducted. Students for whom we do not have new consent and who will not take part in the testing should arrive at school on 4 January from 8.25 am as normal.

## **Additional Measures**

Alongside this testing programme, we shall continue to maintain good hand hygiene routines, extra cleaning, and as much ventilation as possible in classrooms. We shall also maintain a requirement for all students and staff – other than those with an exemption – to wear face coverings in communal areas in school, as long as advised by the government.

In addition to this, the government advice remains that students and school staff should continue to conduct lateral flow tests at home on a twice-weekly basis and to report test results via the government's test and trace service. As a school, we continue to request that students perform the tests on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and in the event of a positive test, please also inform school. You must then book a PCR test as soon as possible and contact school with the result.

## **And Finally,**

We greatly appreciate your continued support. As always, should you have any queries please contact the school via the normal communication channels

We look forward to welcoming students back to school for the start of the new term on **Tuesday 4 January 2022.**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Cross'.

**Mrs J Cross**  
**Headteacher**

**What if the test result is positive?**

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. For these students the parent/ carer will also be notified and the student will be sent home.

Those receiving a positive test result will need to take a further PCR test (carried out in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a PCR test. Whilst waiting for the PCR result (via text / email) the individual will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a **positive result** the individual **will have to self-isolate** and members of the household must follow the guidance from NHS *Test and Trace*. If an individual does not take a confirmatory PCR test, s/he must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive lateral flow test.

**What if the test result is negative?**

The individual will be able to stay in school and carry on their activities as normal.

A student will only be told by the school if s/he tests positive on a lateral flow test, although you will also receive an official confirmation of the result (positive or negative) by text / email. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

**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 (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>.

Alongside this test, we shall provide home testing kits for those students for whom we have received consent, to carry out twice weekly testing at home on Wednesdays and Sundays.

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