



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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21 January 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Parent or Guardian

We are currently working to organise coronavirus lateral flow testing for those staff and students who are currently on site and for students when they return to school. We hope to begin testing children and staff who are on site during w/c 8 February.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. Through testing in schools, the government hopes to stop the virus spreading and help keep the school open as safely as possible.

The test is voluntary, and I would like to reassure you that we will not issue a test to a young person without the appropriate consent. I would encourage everyone to take the test to help us control the spread of the virus. However, those who do not take the test will not be prevented from coming into school.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the online Microsoft form (link below). If you have more than one child at school you need to complete an online consent form for each child. Please complete and return this form by **Wednesday, 27 January**.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=N8McgZMDrkqueMJmrghoKn8FLYoBRotJnFuBUQSeVvZUN1kzWFZLOE5RMkpHMUwzWFdPMTRQUDBSRy4u>

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. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive or walk-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while they wait 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 self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

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 anything you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

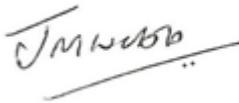
Daily testing of a close contact has been paused by Gov.uk following advice from NHS Test & Trace and PHE. We will therefore continue to require students and staff to self-isolate for 10 days if they have had close contact with a positive case.

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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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. You can call the office on 01765 602 647 or email admin@ripongrammar.com

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Webb
Headmaster

