

14th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to school Covid 19 testing- January 2022

The government has again asked schools to test all secondary school students onsite on their return to school in January, to try to prevent positive cases coming into the community. We have been asked to provide one onsite test for each student. Arrangements for return to school testing and answers to some frequently asked questions can be found below. Please take some time to read this letter carefully, as some in school testing arrangements have changed since previous rounds of testing.

As I am sure you are aware, the national picture relating to Covid 19 and in particular the new variant is constantly changing. We will write to you again before the start of term in January to confirm whether there are any necessary changes to testing or wider school arrangements.

Thank you once more for your continued support of the school and our community. I hope you have a restful and joyous Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Price
Headteacher

Schedule

Due to the addition of Covid testing, there will be a slight stagger to the return to school in January:

- Tuesday 4th January: INSET day – no testing or students on site
- Wednesday 5th January: Testing onsite for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 – no remote learning offered to these year groups on this date. Remote teaching through Microsoft Teams for Years 7 and 8.
- Thursday 6th January: Testing onsite for Year 7 and Year 8 – no remote learning offered to these year groups on this date. Onsite teaching for Years 9, 10 and 11.
- Friday 7th January: All students in – no remote teaching.

Parents/carers will receive a specific time slot for their child's return to school test this week, sent home with students. Please make a note of the date and time that your child is invited to attend

for a test. Please note- we will not be able to rearrange test times and students will be 'bubbled' during testing so it will not be possible for siblings in different year groups to have their tests at the same time.

Consent

Once again, we require your consent to test your child. Please complete the form linked here: <https://forms.office.com/r/qrD9Pbj9NM> by 11.59pm Sunday 19th December to confirm your consent. We will not test any students for whom we do not receive written consent. You do not need to contact us if you do not wish to give consent- simply do not reply to the form. Please note that we do require new consent even if your child has previously had on site testing.

Test registration – NEW- please ensure you are familiar with this information

In a change to our previous process we are asking parents/carers to register their child's test barcode at home up to 24 hours before the test date. This means families entering all the required contact and personal information into the NHS site rather than school staff and will be a massive help to our support team. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Students will be issued with a set of barcodes before the end of term and parents/carers will need to register the code so their child can take part in their test. Barcodes must be registered up to 24 hours in advance and students must bring the barcodes with them to their test. For more information on how to register codes please click <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit>

On the day

Students must only come onto site for testing if they are asymptomatic. Please ensure they arrive 3-5 minutes before their appointment. They must wear a face covering (unless they are exempt) and they must observe social distancing on the school site at all times. They should enter through the normal student entrance and they will be directed from there. When they have taken their test they will be asked to return straight home and await results.

The tests that we will be completing are nasal swab only (there will be no tonsil swabbing). The tests are not painful to undergo and students will be guided through the process sensitively.

If your child is unable to attend their testing appointment, please email attendance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk to notify us.

Results

Results will be sent to the email address and/or mobile number parents/carers provide when registering their child's barcode. In the event of a positive test result one of our office team will call home as soon as the result is known. Negative results are communicated in batches at the end

of the day, so please do not be alarmed if you do not hear anything until the evening after your child's test.

Does my child have to take part?

Participation in the testing is not a prerequisite for your child/children returning to school but we would continue to encourage all families to take part in regular testing, as this is one of the best defenses we have against the spread of the virus. No students will be tested without parental consent however.

My child has had Covid recently- should they still attend?

Lateral flow testing is not recommended for individuals who have had Covid 19 in the previous 90 days and we will not be scheduling appointments for students who have had Covid 90 days prior to their return to school test date. These students are welcome to return to school along with their year group provided they are well and outside of any required isolation period. Please continue to notify us of any Covid cases throughout the Christmas holiday so we can ensure our records are accurate.