

20th July 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 precautions at Oasis Academy Lord's Hill

I hope you and your family are well, and that you get to enjoy some time off together over the summer. We are really looking forward to welcoming your child to join the Academy in September, and today I am writing to you about our Covid-19 arrangements in the autumn term and asking for your support with asymptomatic testing.

As you may know, the Government has published new guidance for schools around Covid-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read the guidance here](#) or by searching 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance Step 4.'

Some of these precautions will be the same as those in place in your child's previous primary school, some are secondary specific, and some are changing over the summer break.

We want your child to have a great experience joining the academy, and this letter is to try and explain everything in place to avoid any undue concern.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing has been an important aspect of reducing the risk of infection spreading within secondary schools this year, and this is something that the Government requires in the Autumn Term.

The guidance explains that all secondary school pupils will receive 2, on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests. The first test will be on their first day of school, and the second 3 to 5 days afterwards.

In addition to the onsite tests, pupils and staff are encouraged to continue to take two LFD tests each week at home in the new term until the end of September, when the government will review this.

As your child has been at primary school, they may not have taken a lateral flow test and certainly not at school. As you will know tests are simple to take but we want to ensure every pupil is comfortable.

Please see the additional information that I have included with this letter about asymptomatic testing, that asks for your consent. **We must receive your consent for your child to take a LFD test**, and we encourage every student and family to consider this request carefully. The tests provide an additional protection that helps us to reduce the risk of Covid-19 amongst our school community.

1. Please read the information on 'How will our process work?'
2. Please read the accompanying NHS Test and Trace leaflet called 'How to do your test' [the leaflet is online here](#) and share this with your child to explain what will happen.

Principal - Benjamin Bond

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3. If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your child to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation, if possible, ahead of the start of the autumn term in September.

Please read and then fill in the attached consent form and return it by email to info@oasislordshill.org or by post to Oasis Academy Lord's Hill, Romsey Road, Southampton, SO16 8FA. If your child is attending Summer School, we would welcome your completed form during this week.

What precautions will be in place in September?

Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We follow good hygiene around sneezing, using and then disposing tissues safely.

Cleaning

We have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning equipment and a focus on frequently touched areas.

Ventilation

We will ensure that the school is well ventilated.

COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Pupils and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of Covid, have had a positive test, or are required to quarantine. If a pupil shows symptoms at school, parents will need to collect them and request a test.

The household (including any symptoms) should follow the [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Risk assessments

Leaders at school will meet regularly to assess the risk at school. If necessary, and in consultation with Public Health England, we will be able to increase the precautions we have in place.

Bubbles

The government's advice explains that they are no longer recommending keeping children in consistent groups (or bubbles). This means that assemblies and lunch service can resume, and pupils will be able to use all the subject-specific classrooms.

As this is a recent update, we will spend some time over the summer considering what will work best for pupils moving around the academy.

It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to year group bubbles should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

As with your child's primary school, we have been conducting contact tracing this year if ever there was a confirmed case of Covid-19. In the Autumn schools will not be responsible for contact tracing. Instead, NHS Test and Trace will contact the family of the pupil with a confirmed case to identify who they have been in close contact with.

In addition, from September children under 18 will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test.

Face coverings

From September, the Government have explained that face coverings will no longer be advised for secondary students, staff, and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

As your child has been at primary school this year, they may not have worn a face covering this year or be used to wearing one. Despite the Government's advice, we know that some staff and students may still want to continue to wear a face covering.

The new guidance requires us to be able to quickly move to all students wearing a face covering should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community and Public Health England advise us to.

We hope this letter is helpful in providing you and your child with a comprehensive explanation of what precautions we have in place. We are of course pleased that the Government says it is safe to begin reducing some of the COVID-19 precautions, however we need everyone to continue to take the pandemic seriously.

As at your child's primary school, they must only come to school if they are well, and everyone is responsible for following all precautions that remain in place.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 3rd September and will provide further details on timings. I wish you a relaxing and happy summer.

Yours faithfully



Benjamin Bond
Principal

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COVID-19 testing for students

We are asking for your permission for your young person to be tested twice at school, at the beginning of the Autumn term.

The tests are known as 'lateral flow tests,' that provide a result within half an hour. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms, so by testing we improve our ability to stop the Covid-19 from potentially spreading within school.

We are also asking for all those students and staff who consent to continue taking LFTs regularly at home.

The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible. Please see [the leaflet online here](#) to see how easy it is for your young person to take the test.

What do I need to do now?

1. Please read the information on 'How will our process work?'
2. Please read the accompanying NHS Test and Trace leaflet called 'How to do your test' and share this with your child to explain what will happen.
3. If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your child to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation, if possible ahead of the start of the autumn term in September.
4. Please read and then fill in the attached consent form and return it by email to info@oasislordshill.org or by post to Oasis Academy Lord's Hill, Romsey Road, Southampton, SO16 8FA.

We are urging all families to agree to these safe and quick tests in September. If you do not give your permission, your young person should attend school as normal and continue to follow all other safety precautions.

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. Please contact us by email info@oasislordshill.org

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested twice when they return to school in September, the second test within 3-5 days of the first test.
- 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.
- Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.
- Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, they should continue 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.
 - If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.
- Should a student receive a negative test, 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 you can assume it was negative.
- Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show that the tests are accurate in identifying a case. The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your young person 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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1



YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2

YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU



3



BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4



10 SECS

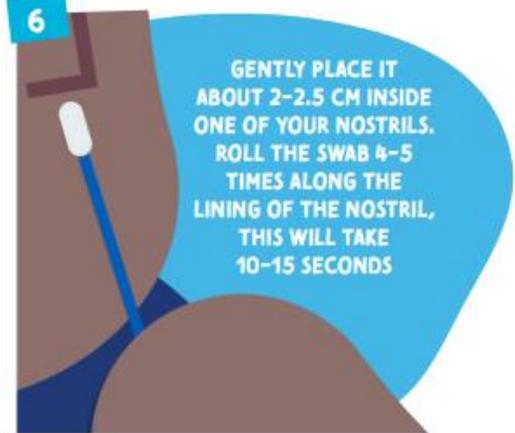
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5



REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6



GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7

AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8



YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9



YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and carers of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
 - **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
 - **Staff** will complete this form themselves.
1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated July 2021.
 2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
 3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
 4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
 5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
 6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
 7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
 8. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.

I confirm that I consent to all the statements above.	
Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print)	
Year group (if applicable)	
Name of parent or carer if under 16 (print)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	