

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

4 March 2021



Dear Families

Ref: COVID-19 testing for secondary-aged students at Abbot's Lea School

Following on from my previous communication regarding testing for students of secondary age at ALS, I have now finalised the arrangements for the coming weeks and write to update you on our plans. I apologise this has taken me a while but this clinical practice project was more complex than any I have led previously.

To recap, the government is delivering a programme of rapid asymptomatic testing for students in year 7 and above in some schools nationally to:

- keep education settings open as much as possible
- ensure as many students as possible are receiving high quality, face-to-face education
- help safeguard the health of the staff of education settings and their pupils and students
- break chains of transmission of the virus.

Testing will always remain voluntary and no student will be tested unless informed consent has been given by the appropriate person. Importantly, no student would be prevented from receiving onsite education if for any reason they are not tested.

For those who opt in to take part, we will roll out this programme in two stages:

1. ON-SITE TESTING:

From Monday, 8 March 2021, for two weeks, ALS will offer on-site testing, conducted by the team of clinically trained medical assistants commissioned by ALS in conjunction with Liverpool City Council.

The testing centre will be set up in our main school hall and each class will access it one at a time, between the hours of 9am and 2pm Monday – Friday.

Students who can self-swab will be able to do so, with the clinical staff being able to offer assisted-swabbing to those who might struggle to do the test themselves. Class teams will support each student during the process.

The aim of this programme is to test each student who opts for the test (or whose parents consent to them having a test in case of under-16s) three times between 8 March and 19 March 2021.

We realise that some students may struggle with the tests, even if they consent (or in the case of under 16s, you consent on their behalf). Whilst we will always encourage, reassure, support and allow for plenty of time to get tested, if it is clear that the student is unwilling, unable, or anxious beyond acceptable levels by the prospect of the test, we will not proceed at that time. We will offer an alternative testing slot for the duration of the onsite testing.

2. HOME-BASED TESTING:

Next week we will begin to receive home-testing kits for students which will be sent home for use in the privacy of your homes.

Students who may have previously struggled with the on-site testing will be offered home-based testing to see if that method proves more suitable for them.

DATA AND RESULTS

As a school, we are obliged to collect data and share it with the authorities, to help with the national effort to fight the pandemic, including monitoring trends in the given locality, sector or workforce and targeting support accordingly.

I share here the statutory privacy notices for your records. In short, negative test results will be logged and stored on record by the school for 12 months only, in line with the GDPR guidance, whilst any positive tests will be kept by the school and also communicated to the health authorities and Liverpool City Council.

Please note that we will only be able to offer on-site and home-based testing to those students for whom we have received a signed consent form. Please complete the attached consent form and either print and send to school with your child or email to our Data Protection Lead: kim.adair@abbotsleaschool.co.uk

I hope that you will join us in our efforts to keep our school safe. I sincerely hope that all families will consent to their under-16s children being tested and support their over 16s to consent to the testing by reassuring them of the importance of it and the support on offer.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher