



Mayesbrook Park School

Alternative Provision for young people in Barking and Dagenham

24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 lateral flow testing for students

As you are aware, the school will be able to welcome groups of students back onto site from Monday March 8th. We will confirm when each groups of students are expected on site through Google Classrooms.

However, in line with government guidance we are working to keep our school as safe as possible by having a variety of different control measures on our risk assessment. An additional control measure is the use of rapid (Lateral Flow) testing for staff and students. We hope to be able to use this for as many of our students as possible upon the school re-opening. After students have completed three tests in school they will be given lateral flow test kits to take home for parents to supervise

Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is being conducted across the country using quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests.' Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We are required to obtain consent from all individuals who are taking part in the rapid testing process in school.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please go to the school website www.mayesbrookparkschool.org.uk and fill in the consent form. This will be returned to us automatically once you have pressed 'Done' at the end of the form.

Please complete the form on our website as soon as possible and before Thursday 4th March 2021.

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 16's, staff in the testing area can oversee the swab process but will not conduct it for the student. An instruction leaflet on how to do the test is attached. Please take some time to go through the process. The Covid19 Testing Privacy Statement is also attached for your information.

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.

Executive Head: **Annie Blackmore**

Mayesbrook Park School, 75-77 Arden Crescent, Dagenham RM9 6TJ Telephone 020 8270 6000
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DfE number: 3011100





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What if a pupil 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.

If positive, pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' on the same day (or as soon as possible). 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, you should choose to visit a drive-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) the students will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result the student will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Pupils will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. 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/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time.

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 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support in this difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Blair – Deputy Headteacher

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