

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Secondary school-aged children undertaking a free Covid-19 Lateral Flow Test at Elutec Academy.

I am writing to provide further details regarding the Government's rollout of COVID-19 testing in school. This letter confirms specific details for Elutec Academy and refers to the NHS Track and Trace team for further guidance.

Where will testing take place?

The testing site at Elutec Academy will be the main school building and only accessed via the student entrance. Normal procedures of wearing a mask, sanitising hands and keeping at least 2m apart will be enforced upon entry to the building for all staff and students.

Who will carry out the testing?

The school has a team of colleagues (who are all DBS cleared) to oversee the testing. Students and staff are required to swab their own nose and throat before it is passed to the testing team for processing. As part of the consent form, parents/carers will receive notification by text and email of their child's result if they test positive.

How often will I be offered testing?

When students return from their period of remote learning in the current lockdown we will try to test as many students as we can before or as they return. This is called 'Mass testing'.

When students are back in school, if they are identified as a close contact to a positive case of Covid-19 then they will have to self-isolate for the period of 10 days. If the test is negative they will go straight to lessons as normal. This will continue twice a week on a Monday and Thursday and is called 'Serial testing'.

Testing will be offered twice a week to staff.

What type of test is it?

The testing kits used are the **rapid lateral flow tests**. If a positive result is confirmed, parents/staff will be required to arrange for a laboratory test using the normal arrangements (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test-or-phoning-119>). Elutec Academy will endeavour to provide a PCR Test for students who test positive for COVID-19.

What happens if my result is positive?

If students do test positive, then the school will expect parents to collect them from school as soon as possible. Students will remain isolated until collected. Staff testing positive will need to go home. Both staff and parents should book a laboratory PCR test straight away if no PCR is available from the school. The school will need to see the results of this test as soon as they have been received by yourselves. If the laboratory test is negative students/staff can return to school, if it is positive then the student/member of staff will need to isolate.

What happens if my result is negative?

Students and staff can continue to attend school/work in the normal way. **Testing does not remove the need for everyone to socially distance, keep good hand hygiene, wear face coverings and for good ventilation when inside.**

Do I have to take part?

We must have parental consent for children **under 16** to take part and individual consent for anyone over 16. Explicit consent is required. This means we must have the consent form signed before we can test your child or you, if you are a member of staff. The consent form is completed through a Google Form. The link to this electronic consent form is at the end of this letter following the 'Terms of Consent.'

Please complete the online form at your earliest convenience if you or your child wish to take part. An electronic signature of adding your name at the bottom of the form is sufficient. Paper copies of the form can be provided upon request, but postal times may mean it takes longer. **Elutec Academy is in no way applying pressure to you for your child or yourself to take part.** There is an alternative form for registering that you reject consent for the testing. Please complete just one of the two forms for each of your children at the school. We will seek to contact parents/staff that have not completed one of the two forms, so we know their intentions either way.

What if I have questions?

The NHS and Government website provide plenty of information about COVID-19 and the testing requirements, if you have a specific question about how the testing will take place at Elutec Academy, then please contact Mark Lewis, Assistant Principal, on m.lewis@elutec.co.uk

The electronic consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff 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 participate in testing.
- **Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

To **CONFIRM** consent please follow these 3 steps:

1. Read the Terms of Consent on the School Website
2. Read the Data Protection Information Sheet on the School Website
3. Complete this Google Form
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeX0soZxqC8F7mqp8_JII6bNqu36hR8BHSv9Xte_FzEsI2VJg/viewform?usp=sf_link
4. Then click **submit**.

To **REJECT** consent please follow this step:

1. Complete this alternative Google Form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8uJPDp-yymXZV-RknOzxxDYho62gK-XvuEo1XiVdG2D6LcA/viewform?usp=sf_link
2. Then click **submit**.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Lewis
Assistant Principal