

26/02/2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff and Students

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to explain the arrangements for the re-opening of SBL Academy from 8th March 2021. We are very pleased to be in the position where we can welcome all students back into school and are currently in the process of revising our risk assessment and planning to ensure that the re-opening goes as smoothly as possible.

The latest government guidance for parents/carers is available [here](#).

Testing using lateral flow device (LFD) tests

As part of the re-opening, the government has asked secondary schools to administer a testing programme for staff and students, using the rapid lateral flow tests. Students will be asked to test four times after their return; three times under supervision in school and the fourth at home. Tests will be taken 3 to 5 days apart. From then on, all students will receive home test kits and will be asked to test themselves twice a week from home and to log and report their results to NHS Test and Trace and with school, to enable contact tracing.

This is a different programme to the one we were expecting and is a massive undertaking, which will involve staggering the start days for different year groups. The plan for the return of students to SBL Academy is as follows:

Year group	Date and time of return.
Year 7	Thursday 11 th March at 08.45
Year 8	Friday 12 th March at 08.45
Year 9	Monday 15 th March at 08.45
Year 10	Wednesday 10 th March at 08.45
Year 11	Tuesday 9 th March at 08.45
Year 12	Tuesday 9 th March at 08.45 <i>(Year 12 will need to go straight to the testing area then return to lessons)</i>
Year 13	Tuesday 9 th March at 08.45

The specific testing times for all year groups can be found at the end of this letter.

All information is also available on the school website.

Remote learning activities will be provided for year groups whilst they are awaiting their test and return to school. Due to the amount of staff needed to deliver the testing programme, it may reduce the number of live lessons. The in-school provision for critical worker and vulnerable students will remain open during this time.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to help students and staff to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing regularly we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging those returning to a WMAT school to be tested.

Consent / Privacy

Testing is voluntary but we are strongly advising everyone to take part as a way of protecting themselves and others and contributing to stopping the spread of the virus.

Please complete the consent form by Tuesday 2nd March 2021.

Please read the WMAT Privacy Notice first which can be found [here](#).

The Consent Form will ask you to give consent or to withdraw it and can be found [here](#).

Students who decline to participate can still attend school if not symptomatic and should return to school on the day their year group returns to the classroom. If however, they begin to show symptoms at any time, they should [get tested](#) and follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation.

How the tests work

This short video explains the key parts of the testing process -

<https://www.loom.com/share/7e9594cd63494a70a119d8c21fb7b3c9>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. We will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a [text/email] notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (for example, in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommends two LFD tests 3 to 5 days apart (or 3 to 4 days for home testing), to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using an LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

Wearing of face coverings in secondary schools

As an additional control measure in secondary schools, the government is now recommending that face coverings should also be worn in classrooms and in all situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This is being introduced as a temporary measure and will be a requirement up until Easter, when it will be reviewed. Please would you ensure that your child has an appropriate face mask that he/she can wear whilst in class. Please note that visors and face shields should not be worn as an alternative to a face mask as they are less effective in stopping transmission.

We do appreciate that some students and families may be anxious about the return to school. This is entirely understandable and we will do what we can to ensure that students have a positive start. Staff will deal sensitively with this and will assess where each individual student is, both academically and emotionally, so they can be helped to get back on track as quickly as possible. To help us in this process, we have re-designed the questionnaire we used at the start of this school year and would be grateful if you would complete and return it. The questionnaire is available at [Return to School - Well Being Questionnaire](#). That said, we are delighted that the majority of students have engaged really well with the home learning programme and are well placed to return.

As always, our planning for re-opening is guided by a rigorous risk assessment process. The full risk assessment document will be available on our trust website (www.wellswaymat.com) by Friday 5th March, should you wish to view it.

Please accept our thanks in advance for your support with the measures we are taking to re-open our school safely. If you have any questions please email sblovell@sblonline.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Dean Anderson
Principal



Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive

Tutor Group	1st Test Date and Time	2nd Test Date and Time
7Ca2	Friday 5 th March at 08.45	Wednesday 10 th March at 08.45
7AT1	Friday 5 th March at 09.05	Wednesday 10 th March at 09.05
7Ti1	Friday 5 th March at 10.05	Wednesday 10 th March at 10.05
7Ti2	Friday 5 th March at 10.05	Wednesday 10 th March at 10.05
7Eu1	Friday 5 th March at 11.25	Wednesday 10 th March at 11.25
7Eu2	Friday 5 th March at 11.25	Wednesday 10 th March at 11.25
7At2	Friday 5 th March at 12.25	Wednesday 10 th March at 12.25
7Ca1	Friday 5 th March at 12.25	Wednesday 10 th March at 12.25

Tutor Group	Test Date and Time
8Eu2	Thursday 11 th March at 11.25
8Eu1	Thursday 11 th March at 11.25
8Ca1	Thursday 11 th March at 11.25
8Ti1	Thursday 11 th March at 12.25
8At1	Thursday 11 th March at 12.25
8Ti2	Thursday 11 th March at 14.05
8Ca2	Thursday 11 th March at 14.05

Tutor Group	Test Date and Time
9Ti1	Friday 12 th March at 11.25
9Eu1	Friday 12 th March at 11.25
9Eu2	Friday 12 th March at 11.25
9At1	Friday 12 th March at 12.25
9Ca1	Friday 12 th March at 12.25
9Ca2	Friday 12 th March at 14.05
9At2	Friday 12 th March at 14.05

Tutor Group	1st Test Date and Time	2nd Test Date and Time
10Ca2	Thursday 4 th March at 10.05	Tuesday 9 th March at 10.05
10Eu2	Thursday 4 th March at 10.05	Tuesday 9 th March at 10.05
10Ti1	Thursday 4 th March at 11.25	Tuesday 9 th March at 11.25
10At1	Thursday 4 th March at 11.25	Tuesday 9 th March at 11.25
10At2	Thursday 4 th March at 12.25	Tuesday 9 th March at 12.25
10Eu1	Thursday 4 th March at 12.25	Tuesday 9 th March at 12.25
10Ca1	Thursday 4 th March at 14.05	Tuesday 9 th March at 14.05

Tutor Group	1st Test Date and Time	2nd Test Date and Time
11Ca1	Wednesday 3 rd March at 10.05	Monday 8 th March at 10.05
11Eu1	Wednesday 3 rd March at 10.05	Monday 8 th March at 10.05
11Ca2	Wednesday 3 rd March at 11.25	Monday 8 th March at 11.25
11Eu2	Wednesday 3 rd March at 11.25	Monday 8 th March at 11.25
11Ti2	Wednesday 3 rd March at 12.25	Monday 8 th March at 12.25
11At1	Wednesday 3 rd March at 12.25	Monday 8 th March at 12.25
11Ti1	Wednesday 3 rd March at 14.05	Monday 8 th March at 14.05

Tutor Group	1st Test Date and Time	2nd Test Date and Time
12JDR	Thursday 4 th March at 08.45	Tuesday 9 th March at 08.45
12CSM	Thursday 4 th March at 09.05	Tuesday 9 th March at 09.05
12PHI	Thursday 4 th March at 09.05	Tuesday 9 th March at 09.05

Tutor Group	1st Test Date and Time	2nd Test Date and Time
13SRO	Wednesday 3 rd March at 08.45	Monday 8 th March at 08.45
13SKL	Wednesday 3 rd March at 09.05	Monday 8 th March at 09.05
13MSS	Wednesday 3 rd March at 09.05	Monday 8 th March at 09.05