

Alderbrook School

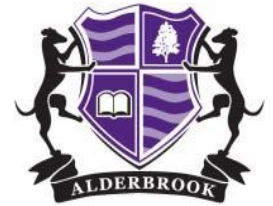
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Dear Parents and Carers

16 December 2021

January COVID Testing – Parent Information

In November, the Government wrote to schools asking them to test students once onsite on return in January, in order to boost testing participation and help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

As a result, the students for which we have received consent, will be asked to complete one onsite test on Tuesday 4th January. As mentioned in our communication last week, we hope to minimise disruption to learning by completing all testing in one day. In order to minimise risk within the school community, we need as many students as possible to be tested in this way, and we ask for your support in getting students to school at the requested times.

Testing over the Christmas Holiday and Prior to Returning to School

Government advice is for students to test over the holidays in line with national guidance. This means that they should test if they will be in a high-risk situation that day, and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

We ask that all students carry out a Lateral Flow Test at home on the day before or morning of their return to school in January, regardless of whether you have given consent for them to be tested in school.

Lateral Flow test kits were distributed to students in Tutor time last week. Please can I remind you that Lateral Flow testing, including that in school, is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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/getcoronavirus-test>. If your child tests positive on the LFD test before their return to school, or is symptomatic, they must not come into school on 4th January, and a PCR test must be booked.

COVID Testing in School – Tuesday 4th January

We will carry out testing differently to previous school testing. On arrival to school at their designated time, all students with consent for testing should go directly to their form/tutor classroom, where they will be sat socially-distanced and the testing will be completed. There will also be a space assigned to test a small number of pupils in Cartwright Hall.

As Year 11 have their mock exams starting the following day, they will come to school for their test only, and will return home for a study day immediately afterwards. All other year groups will stay in school for the rest of the day having completed their test.

All students, including Year 11, should wear full school uniform when attending school to complete their COVID test.

No school buses will run on the morning of 4th January, students should arrive to school at the specified time overleaf. The school buses will run as normal on the afternoon of 4th January.

Arrival Times on Tuesday January 4th 2022

The arrival times for all students are detailed in the table below:

Year Group	Period	Time	Where to go on arrival
11 with consent and testing	2	9.30	Form Classroom
All other Year groups with consent and testing	3	11.20	Form Classroom
Students without consent and not testing (excluding Year 11)	4a/ lunch	12.20	Period 4a Classroom (Year 9 & Sixth Form) Lunch Servery and Playground (7,8,10)

Procedure following the test

Students testing negative

All Year 11 students will return home and revise for their upcoming mock exams (they will be released at 10.30am).

All other students testing negative will begin their normal timetable (Week 1) from 12.20pm.

Students testing positive

Students testing positive will be required to be collected from the school by a parent/ carer. You will be notified via phone and automated text message/email. Students testing positive will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards and these can be booked online by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. During the time while waiting for the PCR result the student will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

90 day window after a positive test

Government and NHS advice states that if someone has tested positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested using either PCR or rapid lateral flow tests for 90 days unless they develop new symptoms during this time, in which case they should be retested immediately using PCR. This 90 day period is from the initial onset of symptoms, or if asymptomatic when tested, their positive test result. On the 4th January if this applies to your child, please do not send them into school for a lateral flow test but instead they should arrive at 12.20pm (or the following morning if they are in Year 11).

Thank you again for your support.

Best wishes,



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher