



EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Emmanuel Schools Foundation

19 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This email is to help give you more information about the testing programme in College.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore encouraging those returning to Emmanuel College to access the in-school provision at this time to be tested. Please read the information provided below and then click on the link [here](#) to give your consent, ideally by 12.00pm Friday 22 January.

Plan for testing

From next week, we will be looking to test all staff and students who are accessing the in-school provision. In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in College can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in College.

How the tests work

You will find a helpful guide [here](#) that I would encourage you to look at with your child, along with watching [this short video](#) from the NHS. 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. College will inform the student and parents/carers of a positive test result. You can also receive a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system if you are registered on the system within 24 hours of the test taking place. Students will be given a registration card at the time of their test to enable you to do this. Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by College and you will need to arrange for them to take a further 'PCR test' at an NHS testing centre to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they 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.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in College and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/email from the online NHS system. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in College who tests positive?

The student and their parents/carers will be notified by College if they are a close contact. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of seven days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in College. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test

and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through College and are participating in daily contact testing.

If they do not want to take the tests, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. The option of daily testing does not apply to household members or close contacts of a positive case outside of College, who will still need to self-isolate.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at College 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 test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please ensure that if you wish to give consent you click on the link [here](#). We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Waterfield
Principal