

Date: 21 06 21

Dear Parents/Carers,



COVID-19 testing for staff and students

As part of the regional response to the rise in rates of the delta variant of Covid-19, Public Health England have requested the Academy reintroduce Covid-19 testing at the school for the rest of June and in July. This will be conducted in the same way as we did earlier this year.

We are asking for your permission for your young person to be tested from Wednesday 23rd June. The tests will be the same as before, known as 'lateral flow tests,' that provide a result within half an hour. Up to a third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms, so by testing we will improve our ability to stop the Delta-variant from potentially spreading within school.

We are also asking for all those students and staff who consent to continue take LFTs regularly at home.

We will keep all of the other protective measures at the Academy in place (hand washing, year group bubbles, remote learning), and we welcome these tests as an additional protective measure that will help keep everyone safe.

The tests are quick and safe and will help us to identify if anyone has the coronavirus as early as possible. Please see [the leaflet online here](#) , to see how easy it is for your young person to take the test.

What do I need to do now?

1. Please read the additional information on 'How will our process work?' at the end of this letter for more details on how we will handle different situations so you are fully informed.
2. If, once you have read all the information, you would like to give your permission for your young person to be tested and your consent for us to handle the information around the results, we will need to receive this confirmation, if possible ahead of Monday 23rd June.
 - **Your child has been issued with an updated consent form today. Please sign this form and ask your child to return it to school as soon as possible.**

We are urging all families to agree to these safe and quick tests across the rest of June and July. If you do not give your permission, your young person should attend school as normal and continue to follow all other safety precautions.



Principal - Marie Dillon

King William Street, Salford Quays, Salford, M50 3UQ

Tel: 0161 886 6500 Fax: 0161 886 6549

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We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. Please contact us by email info@oasismediacityuk.org.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dillon

Principal, Oasis Academy MediacityUk



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Covid-19 Testing within school

How will our process work?

- All secondary students with parental consent will be tested from Monday 21st June and across June and July.
- 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.
- Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.
- Should a student or staff member receive a positive test, they will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day. You should call 119 to book a follow-up test. Once they have had the further test, they will need to self-isolate while they await the result. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.
- Should a student or staff member receive a negative test, they will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.
- Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show that the tests are accurate in identifying a case. The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be asked to request a PCR test immediately.

Whatever the result, they will be required to self-isolate at home for 10 days.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your young person 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 PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.



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