

Asymptomatic Testing August 31st and 3rd September 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the government expecting schools to coordinate asymptomatic LFD tests on pupils?

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) will support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

Is it compulsory for pupils to be tested?

The government has stated that 'Testing is voluntary; however, we would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.' Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school in line with the staggered return arrangements.

Do parents/carers have to give consent for their child to be tested?

Yes - links to the consent form have been sent out via the Arbor App. If you have not received the link please email enquiries@sacredheart.npcat.org.uk

Is it possible for consent to be given over the phone?

No, we require the consent to be given via the Arbor App. If you have not received the link please email enquiries@sacredheart.npcat.org.uk

What happens if my child tests positive when tested using the LFD test?

If a student tests positive after their first test then they will need to follow government guidelines and get a PCR test and self isolate at home for 10 days. See here for full guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidancefor-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> If your child tests positive following subsequent on-site tests then they will be asked to isolate in a designated area until a parent/carer can collect them and they should then follow the above government guidelines.

What happens if my child tests negative, but has coronavirus symptoms?

If your child has any symptoms of Covid 19 at any point then they should immediately follow the government guidance. The LFD test should not be used in this instance and a PCR test should be booked in order to confirm results.

My child has previously tested positive for COVID19 using the PCR test, when should they start to use the LFD tests?

A pupil who tested positive would recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken.

Why aren't the buses running on the morning of Friday 3rd September?

We need to stagger the testing across the year groups. Year groups are unable to mix on the buses until after the second test. The buses will take pupils home at the end of the day.

My child is not available on 31st August 2021 can they do the test at home and send in the results?

The asymptomatic testing needs to be done in a controlled environment, e.g. at school. If your child is unable to attend on the 31st August then they must attend on the 3rd September for the test. This is a planned school day when all pupils are expected to attend school. Home tests will still be required to be performed and logged on both Arbor and the Gov.uk website twice weekly until the end of September.

I have more than one child at the school and they are in different year groups, can I bring them for their tests at the same time?

Yes - just explain to the member of staff in the sports hall that this is the case please.

If children are not being tested do they still come at the times stated for testing on Friday 3rd September and where do they go?

They will go to the Sportshall and wait with those undertaking the tests.

What support will be in place for pupils who may find the testing distressing, what support is in place for your most vulnerable students?

We are aware that our new Year 7s may never have taken a Covid test and we will be supporting those pupils along with others who may be concerned about their tests. As previously we will have staff available to support these pupils.