



# De La Salle School

Headteacher: Mr P Norris L.LB (Hons), MA, NPQH

13th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to confirm the COVID19 asymptomatic testing arrangements for the Autumn term.

As children and young people return to the classroom, following the summer holidays and the further easing of restrictions, we need to be sure that potential Covid-19 cases are found as quickly as possible and measures put in place to prevent the virus spreading throughout the school community. From 16<sup>th</sup> August, if step 4 of the roadmap goes ahead, these measures will no longer include the self-isolation of close contacts if they are under age 18 or have had both doses of the vaccine. This makes regular testing even more important.

## Testing Arrangements

New Year 7 students will be offered two tests onsite at school to ensure they are confidently and correctly administering the tests, which have not been offered to them at primary school. **Whilst all other students should complete two tests at home before they return to school.**

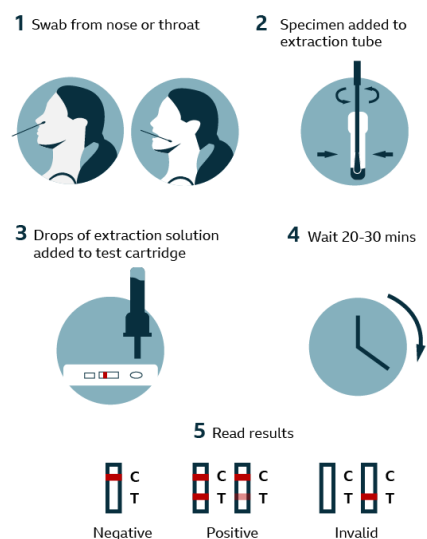
The reason the testing process is continuing is to:

1. Identify and help prevent staff and students without symptoms from transmitting the virus unknowingly.
2. Allow schools to operate as safely as possible by self-isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as possible.

Your son / daughter will be directed on how to administer the test so as to reduce any anxiety they may experience. An on site test centre has been operational since January for staff and student testing and all staff supervising the centre have been trained on delivering and recording the results, ensuring GDPR is followed.

The image shared shows a brief outline of how the lateral flow test will be administered. Verbal instruction will be on hand if needed. Following two onsite tests, parents/carers will be asked to conduct two home tests per week and report the result to NHS Track and Trace and the school. You will also need to tell the school immediately if the home test kit returns a positive result and again follow self-isolation guidance. Please note that testing is voluntary.

## How the rapid tests work



The consent form must be returned when your son / daughter arrives for their first test in the school.

If you have any questions about the testing process, please contact the school via email at [info@dlsbasildon.org](mailto:info@dlsbasildon.org).

The privacy notice for on site testing can be found on the school website here:

<https://www.dlsbasildon.org/page/?title=Covid+19&pid=66&action=saved>

Students starting in Year 7 should attend school for their first on site test on Thursday 2nd September at the follow times:

7A - 9.00am

7N - 9.30am

7S - 10.30am

7E - 11.00am

7L - 11.30am

7M - 12.00pm

Students should arrive at the student entrance at the allocated time and return home immediately after the test. You will receive confirmation of the result by email and text message (details must be provided on the consent form). Students will then attend school on Friday 3rd September for their first normal day of school as previously advised. Students will have their second on site test on Monday 6th September. Guidance allows students to attend lessons in between tests.

In order to take part in this testing you must provide written consent. It is essential that the attached consent form is returned at the time of the test on Thursday 2nd September. **Please note that this only applies to those students starting Year 7 in September.**

It remains very important that students and staff continue to test at home, twice a week. From September we will continue to provide test kits, but if you find you do not have sufficient supply to cover the summer holiday period, test kits can be ordered online or collected locally. More information is available [here](#).

A copy of our privacy notice for home testing can be found here:

<https://www.dlsbasildon.org/page/?title=Covid+19&pid=66&action=saved>

One in three people who test positive for Covid-19 do not have symptoms and so regular asymptomatic testing continues to be a vital part of our response to managing the virus. This new testing approach is designed to minimise the spread of Covid-19 and support more learners to remain in face-to-face education, which is our top priority.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Have a safe and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Norris  
Headteacher