



# Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School  
Ashbourne Road  
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Staffordshire  
ST14 5PB

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for pupils in Year 7 (September 2021)

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. You may have heard that KS3 pupils will be required to continue with the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing programme in the autumn term. For most pupils in Year 6 this will be a new experience.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By LFD testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information. We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). 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.

Schools have been instructed to administer two tests on-site before pupils continuing regular testing at home. To ensure all KS3 pupils are safe to return to school, and to facilitate the Lateral Flow Testing, it has been necessary to have a phased return to the autumn term for your child.

The LFD test device kits we have received for the on-site testing for the autumn will be different to what our current KS3 pupils are used to. The new Orient Gene LFDs require a **nasal swab only** and return a result in 15 minutes. Those taking the test will be required to self-swab, supervised by trained staff.

If you consent, (terms of consent attached), for your child to be tested you are required to make an appointment for your child's LFD test for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, between 10:00am to 12.15pm, using the below link to our booking system. The booking system is now live and we would suggest this is booked as soon as possible to ensure you get your chosen time slot.

<https://ryecroft.schoolcloud.co.uk/clubsevents/admin/events/106489>

As soon as the test has been conducted, your child must return home. Parents will be notified of positive results only. If we do not contact you, then your child will be expected to return to school for normal lessons on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

Our preference is for all KS3 pupils to receive their first on-site test on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. However, if due to transportation reasons your child is unable to come into school for testing on this date, we can, and only if we are notified, offer the test on Friday. It is important to note that this is on the understanding

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that your child will remain in isolation until the test result is known. If positive, parents must be contactable and have arrangements in place to immediately collect their child from school.

#### What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

#### What happens if the test is negative?

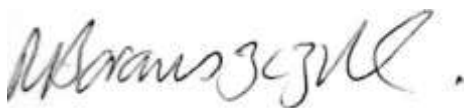
They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

#### What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child 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 test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Yours sincerely



**Miss R Baramuszcak**  
**Headteacher**