

February 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Covid-19 testing in the school**

As we start planning to fully reopen Heron Hall Academy, you will probably now be familiar with the governments statement about testing for Covid-19 in schools to minimise cases and restrict the transmission of the virus.

Up to a third of individuals who test positive for the coronavirus have no symptoms at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the government says that testing of students and staff without symptoms is vital. Identifying those individuals will save lives.

Current government guidance can be found at the following web link: -

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/mass-asymptomatic-testing-in-specialist-settings)

### **Consent**

No student will be tested without consent.

Although testing is not compulsory, we would however encourage you to make use of this opportunity to have testing in the school. We want Heron Hall to be as safe as possible for everyone so our students can continue with their education.

We would be grateful if you could let us know your preference in the 'providing consent' section below so we can keep an accurate record

You can withdraw consent at any time.



## Testing for pupils

Testing in school will be undertaken by our staff and volunteers, all of whom will undergo the compulsory training provided by the government.

### Routine testing

Our school will be using the 'Lateral Flow Test'. Under guidance, students will self-administer the test themselves. This is a nose and throat swab and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in the school with results available in around 30 minutes. A second test is then carried out three days later.

NHS Guidance will be available in the school and at the dedicated testing sites. The guidance is also available at the following web link: -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/946612/How to do your test COVID 19 instruction leaflet for schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf)

You can also watch staff and students who took part in a pilot talking about their testing at the following direct web link: -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zqk1mhdys&feature=youtu.be> \_

If the lateral flow test result is negative, the parent will not be contacted.

If the lateral flow test results indicate the presence of COVID-19, pupils will be informed and parents notified. The pupil will need to self-isolate for a period of 10 days in line with government guidance.

We will notify anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive as they will also need to self-isolate. We will not provide the names of individuals who have tested positive to other parents / pupils.

Please read and then complete the below consent form and return to the school office. Alternatively this information and [an electronic form can be found at this hyperlink](https://forms.gle/7dCs257unVdJ8i3P8):  
<https://forms.gle/7dCs257unVdJ8i3P8>

Yours sincerely



**Arthur Barzey**  
Headteacher



## Providing consent

Please read carefully then complete and submit the below to the school office. Alternatively this information and [an electronic form can be found at this hyperlink: https://forms.gle/7dCs257unVdJ8i3P8](https://forms.gle/7dCs257unVdJ8i3P8)

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing. Any questions I have had, have been answered satisfactorily and I am aware I can ask the school further questions if I need to.
2. I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate. I am aware that consent and participation can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. If on the day of testing a pupil does not wish to take part, they will not be made to do so. It is the pupil's choice if they wish to be tested or not.
4. I am aware that should a test result be positive; my child will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with government guidance
5. For more information about how personal data relating to the testing is used, please see the document entitled '[Privacy notice | Managing the delivery of covid-19 testing](#)' available on the policy page of our website [www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Policies](http://www.heronhallacademy.org.uk/Policies)

Please write clearly. A separate form is required for each child

Name of pupil	
Year group	
Form	
Name of parent / guardian	
Relationship to child	
Signature	
Date	

I consent to my child participating in the schools Covid-19 testing

I do not consent to my child participating in the schools Covid-19 testing

