

Queensbury School

Wood End Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B24 8BL
Telephone: 0121 373 5731
Email: enquiry@queensbury.bham.sch.uk
Website: <https://www.queensburysch.com>



31st December 2020

January 2021 – Return to School & Mass testing

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to the Government announcement on 30/12/20 regarding the spike in Covid cases nationally due to the new variant form of Covid-19. I am writing to you to explain the school / Trust response for pupils returning and the plan of action for Mass Testing (Lateral Flow Device LTD Testing) for staff and students.

Government Guidance (Published 30/12/20):

- *Schools should take time in the week commencing 4th January to prepare to deliver testing of staff and pupils*
- *In the week commencing 4th January, secondary schools should only provide on-site education to vulnerable/ at risk children and children of critical workers, and prioritise remote education to those in exam years*
- *In the week commencing 11th January, secondary schools should provide on-site education to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and those in exam years, and provide remote education to all other pupils*
- *From 18 January, all pupils should return to on-site education*
- *Any Extremely Clinically Vulnerable Children in TIER 4 should remain at home*

Testing in Schools

- All schools and colleges with secondary-age pupils and students (including special schools and alternative provision) will be offered the opportunity to test all staff and students
- Pupils and students will be offered two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid tests spaced three to five days apart (minimum 3 days)
- The LFDs provided to schools and colleges are simple to use (young people can swab themselves, with a trained person supervising them). They produce a result in around 30 minutes
- Anyone with a positive result will need to leave school/college, take a confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test and follow the self-isolation guidelines (currently 10 days)
- The workforce (Staff) will be offered one test in the first week and weekly thereafter as part of the longer-term routine testing programme



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The Table below indicates the return of students:

DATE	WHO	Why
Monday 4 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff OnlyNO STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take delivery of Government testing equipmentSet up of Mass TestingOrganise Home Learning for Exam GroupsReorganise planningTesting of staff
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Staff (except clinically vulnerable)Critical Worker StudentsAt Risk Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Testing of staffTesting of students (Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students)Onsite education for (Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students)Remote learning for Exam Groups (10N, 10E, 11N, 11E, 6.1N, 6.2 E & 6.3 E)
Wednesday 6 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Staff (except clinically vulnerable)Critical Worker ChildrenAt Risk Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Testing of staffTesting of students (Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students)Onsite education for (Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students)Remote learning for Exam Groups (10N, 10E, 11N, 11E, 6.2E, 6.3 E)
Thursday 7 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Staff (except clinically vulnerable)Critical Worker studentsAt risk students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Testing of StaffTesting of Students (Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students)Onsite education for (Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students)Remote learning for Exam Groups (10N, 10E, 11N, 11E, 6.1N, 6.2E,
Friday 8 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">STAFF ONLYNO STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TRAINING DAY 1 – Positive Handling
Monday 11 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">STAFF ONLYNO STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TRAINING DAY 2 – Positive Handling



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Tuesday 12 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10E Students• 10N Students• 11E Students• 11N Students• 6.1N Students• 6.2E Students• 6.3E Students• Critical Worker Students• At Risk Students• All Staff (except clinically vulnerable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing of Staff• Testing of Students• Onsite Education for Exam Groups• Onsite Education for Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students• Home learning 9.15 -11.50am, Purple Mash PM• Form Time Catch-up 2.45 – 3.05pm
Wednesday 13 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10E Students• 10N Students• 11E Students• 11N Students• 6.2E Students• 6.3E Students• Critical Worker Students• At Risk Students• All Staff (except clinically vulnerable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing of Staff• Testing of Students• Onsite Education for Exam Groups• Onsite Education for Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students• Home learning 9.15 -11.50am, Purple Mash PM• Form Time Catch-up 2.45 – 3.05pm
Thursday 14 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10E Students• 10N Students• 11E Students• 11N Students• 6.1N Students• 6.2E Students• Critical Worker Students• At Risk Students• All Staff (Except clinically vulnerable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing of Staff• Testing of Students• Onsite Education for Exam Groups• Onsite Education for Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students• Home learning 9.15 -11.50am, Purple Mash PM• Form Time Catch-up 2.45 – 3.05pm
Friday 15 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10E Students• 10N Students• 11E Students• 11N Students• 6.1N Students• 6.3E Students• Critical Worker Students• At Risk Students• All Staff (Except clinically vulnerable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing of Staff• Testing of Students• Onsite Education for Exam Groups• Onsite Education for Critical Worker Students & At Risk Students• Home learning 9.15 -11.50am, Purple Mash PM• Form Time Catch-up 2.45 – 3.05pm
Monday 18 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All students return	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testing of Staff• Testing of Students• Onsite Education for all classes



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Any Critical Worker Parents will need to complete the online form <https://queensburysch.com/critical-worker/> with details to register their child. This will be checked by the Welfare team and other appropriate checks. **Deadline: Monday 4th January 2021 - 9.00am.**

We will be communicating test appointments once we have recruited, trained staff, set up facility, received resources and administered pilot tests to ensure a smooth system operates. This is beyond the typical expertise of educationalists, so please be patient with our volunteer staff. They work incredibly hard and I am sure will do a great job, but really haven't been given sufficient notice to establish.

To ensure that the students do not lose education time, our virtual platform has plenty of educational resources. Mr Kearns and the teachers will also be in touch to communicate our remote learning whilst we get the school set up.

- <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/queensbury>,
- <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>
- <https://classroom.thenational.academy/>
- <https://members.gcsepod.com/login>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle>

I apologise for not giving more notice, but we have been placed in a position where it has been necessary to put a plan together in less than a day in order to provide as much notice to families as possible. We all also appreciate the pressures this puts on families too. If you are concerned we have a host of information on our website to help <https://queensburysch.com/well-being/>

Please see attached government information which explains testing in more detail.

We will continue to update our Risk Assessments and publish online as normal. Thank you for your support, Happy New Year and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr Chris Wilson

Executive Head Teacher



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Staff and pupil/student testing – quick, safe, easy

Staff, pupils and students will be tested using a validated Lateral Flow Device.

Up to **a third of individuals who test positive for COVID-19 have no symptoms** at all and can therefore spread it unknowingly. That is why the testing of people without symptoms is vital. Identifying those individuals will save lives. This is what is known as ‘**mass testing**’.

Initially testing will be provided for **all secondary pupils students and staff** as they return from the Christmas holidays. After this, **staff will be tested once a week** on an ongoing basis.

Pupils, students and staff will be tested if they come into contact with a positive case. This new approach, known as ‘**serial contact testing**’, will allow those who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school or college if they agree to be tested for 7 days* following last contact with a positive case.

Quick

Swabbing and processing of these tests will be conducted at a dedicated testing site in the school or college with **results available in around 30 minutes**.

Safe

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 (99.8% 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.

When used in combination with **other measures such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), washing hands regularly and social distancing**, these tests further reduce the risk of transmission. We must not relax any of these measures – this testing programme is in addition to them.

Easy

Lateral flow devices **do not require a laboratory** to process the test. The devices are designed to be intuitive and require minimal training to operate.



Lateral Flow Testing



Accessible and easy to use

No lab required, with fast results

Safe technology

* If staff, pupils or students cannot take a test (e.g. on the weekend) they should self-isolate for that day, and resume serial contact testing on their return to school / college. If they return after the 7 days are finished, then they should take one final test, and if it is negative they can return to school/college.

Test instructions / Leaflet

For pupils/students (supervised self-swabbing)

NHS
Test and Trace

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

- YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED
- YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU
- BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART
- 10 SECS
OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT, THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE
- REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS
- GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL, THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS
- YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES
- AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP
- YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Please find instructional leaflet in the separate attachment on the portal

COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (1/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What happens if a **close contact** of my child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They can consent to take part in 'serial contact testing' where they are tested daily for 7 days
- If they test negative, they can remain in school/college that day
- If you or they do not wish to take part, they will need to self-isolate

What if my child tests **negative** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- There will be no need for them to self-isolate and they can remain in school / college as normal
- Social distancing and face coverings where appropriate will remain necessary

What do I need to do if my child tests **positive** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the positive result
- Contact the school / college to inform us of the PCR test result which you will receive via text / email
- If the PCR result is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days

How does my child testing positive impact the rest of my household?

- Your household will have to self-isolate for 10 days
- Follow the [latest government guidance](#).

When can my child return to school / college after testing positive for COVID-19?

- Your child can stop self-isolating and return to school / college on day 11 **after the positive PCR test** if they've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and are well
- They can return then even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks

COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (2/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What does a positive result mean for my child's education?

We have a strong commitment to ensuring all pupils/students can access a wide range of learning resources remotely and will continue to support their education whilst they are self-isolating.

Additional information can be found <https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>



Addressing your concerns

For more information you can visit: <https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>
If you're worried about your child medically, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/> or call 111.

IMPORTANT: If, at any point, a student/pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.

