DIXONS UNITY ACADEMY
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Principal: Gemma Rothenburg

December 2021

COVID-19 Testing for Students

Dear families,

As we look ahead to next term, I write to inform you of our plans for COVID-19 testing for students in January following the Christmas break. Testing will help detect any cases and reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am, therefore, strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested, it is important that we all do our bit to help protect others. Following Government guidance, testing will take place for students who consent on Tuesday 4 January. Students will be asked to come to the academy at a set time to take a test and will then go home. This means that other than for testing, the Academy will be closed to students on this day. All students will then return to the Academy on Wednesday 5 January ready to start their Morning Meeting at 8am.

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school and college age students as they return after the winter break. All students are required to take an on-site lateral flow device test in the Academy before attending classes. All students should then take another test at home 3-4 days later. Thereafter, we will continue to provide test kits so that testing can continue at home at least twice a week.

Consent for testing

We require consent for this new round of testing. Please complete the Consent Form which you can https://www.dixonsua.com/about/covidtesting Please complete the form by Wednesday 15 December 2021.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will receive a [text / email] notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text / email), they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result, they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If the PCR test has been completed within two days of the lateral flow test and the test result is negative, the individual will be allowed to end self-isolation if they do not have any COVID-19 symptoms.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

NHS Test and Trace is responsible for identifying close contacts for any positive COVID-19 cases in schools. If your child has a positive COVID-19 PCR test, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to identify close contacts. You will be informed of the requirements of you from the NHS team.

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 (including 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 or visiting https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by 0113 263 0110 or emailing info@dixonsua.com

Yours faithfully

Gemma Rothenburg

Principal Dixons Unity Academy