

27 August 2021

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Agents,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is taking place across the country for the beginning of the Autumn Term 2021, with the quicker COVID 19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our College.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to College to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be testing the students on their return to DLD College London. The first test will be offered during enrolment on the 31st August 2021 or 1st September 2021. Students have already been advised on which date to enrol.

The 2nd and final onsite test will be on the 6th September 2021. This is when students are attending classes and testing will operate as a drop-in service.

After these dates students will be requested to use the home test kits, available from the College Reception.

Please note asymptomatic testing is voluntary.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around 15 mins from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. DLD College London 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 also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a [confirmatory PCR test](#) ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the

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positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the pupil can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the pupil should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of student 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 College and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results by NHS Track & Trace via text/email.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at College 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 students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



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