



4th January 2021

Knowsley Park Lane, Prescot
Merseyside L34 3NB

T: 0151 477 8680

E: info@prescotschool.org.uk

www.prescotschool.org.uk

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Mrs A L Kennedy BA, PGCE, NPQH
Head of School

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is rolling out across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By 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.

Local SMART/no-symptom testing centres are already in operation and available to attend without an appointment. You may wish to consider visiting one of these sites for your child to be tested in advance of their return to school. This will also give you a fairly accurate representation of how testing will be conducted within school. Further details of local testing centres below:

KNOWSLEY

<https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/smart-testing-faq/>

- Knowsley Leisure and Culture Park, Longview Lane, Huyton
- Volair Kirkby, Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby
- Volair Halewood, Baileys Lane, Halewood

ST HELENS

[Symptom-free testing - St Helens Council](#)

- St Mary's Indoor Market, town centre
- Chester Lane Community Centre, Sutton Manor
- Grange Valley Youth Centre, Haydock

We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate from week commencing 11th January 2021, initially prioritising staff as well as students who are onsite during that week, a more detailed timetable for testing will be issued in due course. I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the consent form either online by clicking on this link <http://bit.ly/3pZRNYn> (students) <http://bit.ly/3hMYz5x> (staff) or by completing a paper version, returned to the school office.

THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

IN THE BUSINESS OF LEARNING - SINCE 1544



Knowsley Park Lane, Prescot
Merseyside L34 3NB

T: 0151 477 8680

E: info@prescotschool.org.uk

www.prescotschool.org.uk

Mrs A L Kennedy BA, PGCE, NPQH
Head of School

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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.

Testing will be offered free of charge. Alongside the leaflet, there are responses from the NHS Test and Trace team to frequently asked questions included overleaf.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

You can call the office on 0151 477 8680 or by email info@prescotschool.org.uk.

May I finally take this opportunity to offer you best wishes for a safe and happy 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A L Kennedy
Head of School



Knowsley Park Lane, Prescot
Merseyside L34 3NB

T: 0151 477 8680

E: info@prescotschool.org.uk

www.prescotschool.org.uk

Mrs A L Kennedy BA, PGCE, NPQH
Head of School

What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students 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.

Students 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 or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you 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 student 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 students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

IN THE BUSINESS OF LEARNING - SINCE 1544

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 or visiting

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.



Knowsley Park Lane, Prescot
Merseyside L34 3NB

T: 0151 477 8680

E: info@prescotschool.org.uk

www.prescotschool.org.uk

Mrs A L Kennedy BA, PGCE, NPQH
Head of School