

**Headteacher:** Mrs C Tasker MA (Cantab)

High Storrs Road

Sheffield

S11 7LH

**Telephone:** 0114 267 0000

**Fax:** 0114 266 3624



We're social! Find us on:

 High Storrs School

 HighStorrs

 HighStorrsSheffield

[www.highstorrs.co.uk](http://www.highstorrs.co.uk)

A "High Performing Specialist School"

24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear all,

### **A return to the building for all students week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

We are currently working on our plans for all students to return to school. Along with the excitement that we will soon be able to teach and support our students face-to-face, is the challenge of planning for the logistics of 'return-to-school' asymptomatic testing and other changes in the guidance for schools. As we are a large school with seven year groups the arrangements for the testing will mean a staggered return to the building for our students. For two weeks (March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>) there will be a programme of mass testing, face to face teaching and some further remote learning. Whilst we are planning as much face-to-face teaching for all students over the course of those two weeks as possible, as ever, our priority is the safety of staff and students.

As you will have seen in the government guidance, schools should offer all students the opportunity to take 3 lateral flow tests. For us to accurately finalise our reopening schedule and get our students back in the building, we need to know how many students would like to take a voluntary test.

*It is worth noting that any testing is voluntary and is not a condition of return to school.*

### **The High Storrs Asymptomatic Testing Centre**

We are in the process of moving our testing centre to the school hall to allow more tests to safely take place and to enable this mass return-to-school testing. Once we have the final numbers of students who will be receiving tests, we can finalise and share our testing and return plan. The next paragraph outlines how the testing process will likely work.

Students will be given 3 time slots over the two-week re-opening period (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March). For the first test they will come into the testing centre at a pre-arranged time to take a test. In the testing centre our trained and ready staff will register the students, check them against the schedule (*and in doing so check that you have given consent if they are under 16*) and then hand over the swabbing kit. The test participants will then go to a bay where they will be told how to administer the swab to their own throat and nose. They will then take their swab (in a disposable container) to a processor who will then process the test. The student will then leave the hall and the school site and will receive their test result via a text message. Those with a negative result will be able to come into school for their face-to-face lessons as per the schedule we will share with all families early next week. Those with a positive result will need to self-isolate for 10 days as per government guidance. The two subsequent tests will also be at a pre-arranged time and students will either have a pre-arranged time slot to come into the testing centre and remote learning for the rest of the day OR they will have a pre-arranged slot in the afternoon and will be dismissed from school from the testing centre. We will release a full plan for the two weeks once we know how many students are taking up the offer of testing.

There is obviously more to the testing process than I have outlined above but hopefully this is the detail families need to feel re-assured about the process from their child's point of view. Obviously, our staff must undertake training and we have to complete a full risk assessment and carry out on-going quality assurance. We have taken delivery of lots of equipment including PPE and will follow strict guidelines throughout including the arrangements for cleaning the space and for disposing of the waste. The NHS app is also used to record test results and share information and we will share further details about that with test participants too.

## Consent

No-one can take a lateral flow test in our school testing centre unless they have provided consent through the completion of a consent form. This consent will be collected digitally through an online form. [To access the online consent form, please click here.](#)

Consent relates to the following groups of students/pupils and staff as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **For any pupil or student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

The information shared in the consent form will be kept securely for a minimum of 14 days and will be destroyed within 1 month of the testing programme ending. There are two documents on the High Storrs website relating to how consent data will be stored, used and deleted – a High Storrs Data Protection Frequently Asked Questions document and the High Storrs School Privacy Statement. To view these documents, please click [HERE](#). Both documents are accessible in the Covid-19 Testing at High Storrs section of the High Storrs Website.

Please note that we have been advised that anyone who has received a positive PCR test for Covid 19 should not be tested using LFT for up to 90 days after that positive test. We think we have a record of all members of our school community who have received a positive test for Covid 19 since September, and we will not be adding them to our testing schedule until 90 days has passed since that test. You can still give consent for your child to be tested at this time. To ensure our records are correct, there is a question in the consent form asking if your child has had a positive Covid 19 test result, and the date they received that result. If your child has tested positive on a PCR test and you did not inform the school (e.g., it was during the holidays) please do let us know by contacting the school office.

**Please complete consent forms by midday on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at the latest** (and please complete **another form** even if you already completed consent for your child who is currently in school in the Critical Worker Children/Vulnerable Children Provision). Please also complete the form to indicate if you do **not** give your consent. Once the deadline has passed we will note any non-returns as 'no consent' and your child will not be included in the testing plans and given a time slot for their first test. This will not prevent their return to school as per the plans we will share next week but the government documents do state that participation in the testing should be strongly encouraged.

Best wishes,



Claire Tasker