

1 December 2021



Orchard Mead Academy

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Executive Principal: Mr M Oldman

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Mass Asymptomatic Testing January 2022

As you may have seen in the news, the Department of Education has advised that schools offer one on-site lateral flow device test on the return to school. Twice-weekly testing at home is strongly encouraged with any positive results to be confirmed by a PCR test. Testing is voluntary however we encourage all students to participate in order to help us stop the spread of coronavirus.

As per government guidelines, Orchard Mead Academy will be offering one on-site lateral flow test to all students who have consented. The tests will take place during the school day on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January, with students being collected from their lessons and taken to the test site. The tests will take place in our Sports Hall, where we have a trained team to administer and process the lateral flow tests.

Consent

The terms of consent are listed at the end of this letter – please read and complete the online form, stating whether consent is or is not given for your child’s participation in testing at Orchard Mead Academy.

Please note: if you previously gave consent for the mass asymptomatic testing that took place in March 2021, you do not need to complete this form as your child will automatically be expected to attend. If consent has changed, please fill out the online form.

A link to the Microsoft form will be sent out using ClassCharts announcements.

Updated Government Guidance – Self-Isolation

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.



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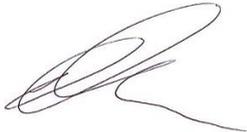
Registered Office: The Mead Educational Trust, The Mead Centre, 343 Gypsy Lane, Leicester, LE4 9DD

Travel and quarantine

If you are planning on visiting family abroad over the holidays, please note changes to the government travel advice. All travellers arriving into the UK will need to isolate and get a PCR test by 'day two' after arrival. They may end their isolation once they receive a negative result. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow rules on isolation following a positive test. Unvaccinated arrivals aged over 18 will follow the existing, more onerous, testing and isolation regime. All Red list arrivals will enter quarantine. Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return.

If you have any questions regarding testing, please see the frequently asked questions document included with this letter. You can also contact Miss Rachel Hill, one of our in-school Covid Coordinators (0116 2413371, ext, 819; rhill@orchard-tmet.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Mark Oldman
Executive Principal

Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 04/08/2021 and the attached Privacy Notice.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having my child having a nose and/or throat swab for lateral flow tests. I / my child will self-swab if I / my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available.
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I / my child is removed from school/college premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I / they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
7. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this lateral flow test I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test following public health advice.