



26th August, 2021

September 2021 COVID-19 testing for pupils at East London Science School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

ELSS staff and School have been tested throughout the course of the previous academic year. All pupils have an opportunity to test as they return to School from Wednesday 1st September 2021. There is a timetabled slot for each year group contained within this letter.

Plan for testing

If your child attends their allotted time as below, we will ensure that they take home a box of seven tests which will need to be completed according to the following schedule: Test on Sunday to clear for Monday to Wednesday, then test again on Wednesday evening to clear Thursday to Friday.

Wednesday 1st September 2021

9:45 – 11:45 Year 8 invited to come into Clock Mill for a two hour slot of volunteer COVID tests or to pick up home testing kits to complete and register on the School Test Register Site.

1:00 – 3:00 Year 9 invited to come into Clock Mill for a two hour slot of volunteer COVID tests or to pick up home testing kits to complete and register on the School Test Register Site.

Thursday 2nd September 2021 – Year 10 AM – Year 11 PM

9:45 – 11:45 Year 10 invited to come into Clock Mill for a two hour slot of volunteer COVID tests or to pick up home testing kits to complete and register on the School Test Register Site.

1:00 – 3:00 Year 11 invited to come into Clock Mill for a two hour slot of volunteer COVID tests or to pick up home testing kits to complete and register on the School Test Register Site.

Friday 3rd September 2021

9:45 – 11:45 Year 7 will attend Clock Mill for their COVID tests – please complete the online COVID [Consent Questionnaire](#) on the School website – New Year 7's.

Year 7 parents, please read this paragraph carefully, as it involves consent for your child to be tested.

If you consent to your son/daughter being tested, please complete the online consent forms by following the COVID button on our school Website. Information about how your child's data will be used by ELSS and the NHS can be found in the Privacy Notice on the ELSS website. Pupils will not be tested unless the online form has been completed. There is a section that you complete to consent and if you choose to NOT consent. Please note, there are three different online consent forms on the school website – a new one for Year 7, Original Online Consent and Consent form for Pupils (over 16 yrs of age).

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8.30 – 10.30 Year 12 will attend 6th Form for their COVID tests or to pick up home testing kits to complete and register on the School Test Register Site.

Monday 6th September 2021

8.30 – 10.30 Year 13 will attend 6th Form for their COVID tests or to pick up home testing kits to complete and register on the School Test Register Site.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained ELSS staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. Where pupils are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil will 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 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. School may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate, which means they will be sent home. 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.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school, or return to school, and resume their activities as normal. Pupils 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 pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

Pupils will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and are participating in daily contact testing.

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Please be aware that if a member of your household tests positive for Covid-19, then your child should remain at home, isolate as per national guidance and inform the school.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for pupils 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>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding testing, please contact Zari Chaudhry, Office Operations Manager zari.chaudhry@eastlondonscienceschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mark Taylor
Interim Principal

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