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22 March 2021

Head Teacher  
Ms Alison Mitchell BA, MEd



Dear Parent / Carer of S1 – S3

### COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Programmes for BGE pupils

I am writing to let you know that the Schools/ELC Asymptomatic Testing Programme is being rolled out to S1, S2 and S3 after the spring break.

A consent form is attached to this letter (Appendix A). If, after reading this letter, you wish your child to participate in testing, please ensure that the attached consent form is completed and returned to the school office or sent from your GLOW email to:

[Headteacher@rosshallacademy.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@rosshallacademy.glasgow.sch.uk) at the earliest opportunity. A copy of the Privacy Notice associated with the testing programme is available on the Glasgow City Council website, on the link below. If you require a hard copy of this notice please contact the school. Frequently Asked questions and other important information is also available on the Glasgow City Council web-site:

<https://glasgow.gov.uk/article/26214/Coronavirus-COVID-19-advice-and-guidance-for-schools>

#### Why is our school/setting participating in the programme?

Along with the other protective measures we are collectively implementing, regular testing of staff and pupils will help to further reduce risks in the school environment. It will do so by helping to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity, and asking them and their close contacts to self-isolate, thus minimising the likelihood of them passing on the virus.

#### Who can take part?

The regular testing is open to all school staff and pupils who are regularly attending the school premises.

#### Does everyone have to take part?

Testing is voluntary. No-one will be prevented from being in school because they do not wish to participate. However, we are strongly encouraging all school staff and pupils to participate wherever possible, in order to contribute to the wellbeing of our school community.

#### What will the testing involve?

Our school is being provided with a supply of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits by the Scottish Government and the UK Department of Health and Social Care for use at home. We



*Our School  
Our Future*

will give each participating staff member and pupil a supply of these test kits to take home, together with the 'Instructions for Use'. Each staff member and pupil will be asked to sign for these in a log at the point of handover. Completion of this test kit log is a regulatory requirement.

We will then ask individuals to test regularly at home, twice a week (every three to four days, ideally in the morning before school).

The tests supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on conducting self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which will be provided with the test kit. There is a useful video showing participants how to administer the test here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Once the test has been conducted individuals must log the test result – whether positive, negative or void – online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

**NB:** It is important to note that this regular testing is only for individuals without symptoms. Those with symptoms must continue to follow the usual guidance. They must self-isolate and book a PCR test at a test centre or via a home test kit at the earliest opportunity. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

**NB:** A negative test result must not be taken as leave to relax or ignore physical distancing or other measures intended to reduce transmission – testing is an additional intervention that contributes to reducing risk.

### **What happens next?**

Please discuss the contents of this letter with your child. If your child wishes to participate in testing please ensure that the attached consent form (Appendix A, below) is completed, signed by a parent or carer and returned at the earliest opportunity.

We will distribute test kits to pupils who wish to participate when they are in school next week or during the first week back after the spring break. You will then be asked to begin testing as soon as possible.

We will continue to support and communicate with our staff, pupils and school communities as we implement this programme. Please let us know if you have any questions. In the meantime, some Frequently Asked Questions can be found in the Appendix B to this letter, below.

Yours sincerely



Alison Mitchell  
Head Teacher



## Appendix A – Consent Form (BGE)

Executive Director of  
Education  
Maureen McKenna

Education Services  
Glasgow City Council  
City Chambers East Building  
40 John Street  
Glasgow G1 1JL



### **NHS TEST AND PROTECT CONSENT FORM for COVID 19 Testing**

This COVID 19 testing programme is being led by the Department for Health and Social Care and the Scottish Government to provide asymptomatic testing in schools for staff and pupils.

**Taking part in testing is voluntary.** There is no expectation or obligation to participate. Nobody should be required to undergo testing without consent, and nobody should be excluded from school if they do not wish to test.

Please read the following sections, complete the questions below and return this form to the school as soon as possible:

I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided to me by the school about this testing programme in the letter dated 22 March 2021. I have had the opportunity to ask any questions about the programme and, if I have, I have had these answered satisfactorily.

For parents/carers/guardians 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.

	YES	NO
1. I consent to my child participating in this testing programme.		
2. I consent to my child's data being held in accordance with the terms in the data privacy notice.		
3. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive, my child will inform the school to support contact tracing.		
4. I consent and agree to accurately recording all of my child's test results at <a href="http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result">www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result</a> or by calling 0300 303 2713.		

Name of Pupil: (PRINT)

\_\_\_\_\_

Year Group and House:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Parent/carer if pupil is under 16)*

## Appendix B – Frequently Asked Questions

### How will I know how to use the tests?

The school will provide those participating with the most up to date *Instructions for Use* along with their test kits. Participants will be asked to ensure they use these, and not the ones that are pre-packaged in the test kits.

The *Instructions for Use* set out clearly how to use the test kits, or how to support someone to do so. They also provide a number to call if there are any problems with the test kits.

### Are the tests safe and accurate?

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the use of these at-home tests for these purposes.

LFD tests are very accurate, which means that only a very small proportion of people who do not have coronavirus will receive a positive result (false positive). The tests are better at picking up true positive cases when a person has a higher viral load and is more contagious. There is a risk of returning a false negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health Scotland recommend two LFD tests 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If someone tests positive using an LFD, it is likely that they are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a 'Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)' test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the LFD, we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further.

### What happens if there is a problem with the tests?

Any incidents that could potentially impact the quality or safety of testing should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

For incidents occurring in a home setting, please report any issues (for example: something damaged, or missing or difficult to use in the kit, you are unable to log a result) to **0300 303 2713**.

If there is a clinical incident which led to, or has the potential for, harm (e.g. swab breaks in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reaction on using the kit etc.) please report it on <https://coronavirusyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk>.

This is not for seeking immediate medical care. Medical care should be sought through the usual route of contacting 111 or 999.

### What happens if I test positive?

If you receive a positive result on your Lateral Flow Device at home, you must report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result), self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test. This can be done via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. We advise visiting a community or drive-through test site as this is the quickest way to get tested, or you can order a home test kit.

It is important that you begin self-isolation immediately after you receive the positive result from the LFD test, and don't wait until the result of their PCR test.

### **What happens if I test negative?**

You must report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Individuals who test negative will be able to stay in schools and resume their activities as normal.

### **What happens if the test result is “void”?**

This means the test has not run correctly. You must report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). You will need to take another test. Use a new test kit, and do not reuse anything from the first kit.

### **What if I have been in close contact with someone who tests positive?**

If a pupil or member of staff has tested positive, they will have to self-isolate as per government guidelines. The pupil or member of staff should also inform the school of their absence, and are strongly encouraged to report a positive case to their school to support contact tracing activities.

Both Test and Protect and, once informed, the school will get in contact with staff members and pupils who were in close contact with a positive case to inform them that they need to self-isolate.

### **What if I develop symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If you develop 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) you must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 0800 028 2816 or visiting <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>. People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result to continue to attend school.

### **Can staff/pupils' families get tested too?**

No, this asymptomatic LFD testing is aimed at staff and pupils only. The tests will be handed to staff and senior phase pupils for personal use and should not be used for anyone else. Family members of staff or senior phase pupils taking part are not eligible.

If family members experience COVID-19 symptoms, they must follow standard Government guidance, including self-isolating immediately and booking a test through the NHS Coronavirus (COVID-19) service or by calling 0300 303 2713 in Scotland.