



26th February 2021

Year 7 Testing

Dear Parents and carers

I am delighted that we will be able to welcome all students back to Sheffield Springs Academy from Monday 8th March. I want to reassure you that we will closely follow and implement all national guidance to ensure a safe return for students and staff. From Thursday 4th March our risk assessment to support the re-opening of school will be available to view via our website. Please take the time to look at this. In addition, I will be holding an online meeting with parents and carers on Thursday 4th March at 6pm to answer any questions which you may have.

As you will be aware the government announced on Monday that all secondary schools will begin to open from Monday 8th March but that students who had consent would need to be tested three times in school (3-5 days apart) before doing two tests per week at home thereafter. On Wednesday 24th February I received notification that schools, should they wish, can start testing students prior to Monday 8th March. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parent's who have already replied to our request for consent earlier in the week. Should you wish your child to be tested then please contact us asap via the school reception on 0114 2392631 or via enquires@sheffieldsprings.org

How the tests will work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake. All students will be taught how to administer their own test with guidance and supervision from our staff. This understanding will then help them when completing tests from home after the three tests in school. Results take approximately half an hour from the time of testing. Parents will receive notification of a positive or negative result from the NHS online system using the information from your consent form. Students will be supplied with home testing kits on their return to school.

When will tests take place?

To support our return to school and ensure students face minimal disruption we will be starting our testing next week. Please look carefully below at the timetable and ensure that your child arrives anytime during their allocated time slot. It is critical that they do not arrive early or late for their testing slot as we will be operating strict social distancing measures.

Thursday 4 th March – Prior to school fully opening	
Time slot	Information
11.30am – 1.30pm	Students to arrive during their time slot. They will receive their COVID-19 test and then wait approximately 30 minutes for the result. After their test result has been confirmed students will be dismissed to return home. If a student tests positive their



	parents or carers will be contacted to collect them.
Monday 8th March – 11.15am – 1.30pm Students will already be in school	
Students will be tested whilst in school. If a student tests negative, then they will remain in school. Should a student receive a positive test result then parents will be contacted immediately, and the student will be isolated in school until they are collected.	
Thursday 11th March – 9am – 11am – Students will already be in school	
Students will be tested whilst in school. If a student tests negative, then they will remain in school. Should a student receive a positive test result then parents will be contacted immediately, and the student will be isolated in school until they are collected.	
Week commencing 15th March	
Students will be provided with home testing kits and be required to carry out two tests per week which are 3-5 days apart.	

It is crucial that any student registered for testing is tested on the dates above. If your child misses their first appointment, then we will have to test them on Monday 8th March before they return to class, and this will disrupt their start to school. Please ensure they come to school on Thursday 4th March between 11.30am and 1.30pm to have their first test.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be collected immediately by a member of staff and will be supported in a waiting area until they can be collected from school. Following a positive LFD test, they will be required to take a further 'PCR' test to confirm the result. Parents will need to book this as soon as is possible and the household will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result the household will need to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS test and trace.

What happens if the test is invalid or negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid, students who test negative will be able to continue their activities as normal.

What if students who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive?

You and your child will be notified if they are a close contact. If your child is notified that they are a close contact, then they will need to self-isolate for 10 days starting from when they were last in contact with the person who has tested positive. No one else in your household must self-isolate unless your child or someone else in your household shows symptoms or tests positive. If after 10 days your child has no symptoms or returned a positive test, then they can return to school.



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What if my child develops symptoms?

The testing programme at Sheffield Springs Academy is only for students or staff with no symptoms. **If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new. Continuous cough, or a loss or change of 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>**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during lockdown. I have been incredibly impressed by students' engagement with remote learning and I am looking forward to welcoming them back, safely, into school to begin face to face teaching from Monday 8th March. I will write to you again early next week with these arrangements. The testing programme in school will be another layer to increase the safety for staff, students, and the community for us to ensure our students receive the education and support they so richly deserve.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter then please do not hesitate to contact the school on 0114 2391631 or at enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org

I wish you and your families all the best.

Mr Shipman
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr M Shipman