



PEMBROKE
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Friday 27th August 2021

RE: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) have advised that all secondary students should receive two asymptomatic COVID tests on school sites when beginning the new academic year. Whilst our students in Years 8-11 will be accustomed to testing both in school and at home, we are aware our new Year 7 may have some concerns around the testing. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Pembroke to put your mind at ease.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to Pembroke for the new academic year to engage in the testing programme.

Plan for testing

Each child will be offered to be tested twice, 3-5 days apart. We have delayed the beginning of teaching in September by one day to allow us to test all students on Monday 6th September. All students will be offered a second test during the school day on Thursday 9th September.

On Monday 6th September please ensure your child arrives to school at the following times for their test:

0830 – 1000 Year 7
1000 – 1100 Year 8
1100 – 1200 Year 9
1300 – 1400 Year 10
1400 – 1500 Year 11

Students do not need to wear school uniform. They should make their way to the sports hall where testing will take place. Parents are welcome to attend with their child, although this is not compulsory.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. There is a dedicated team of Pembroke staff who are trained and highly competent in administering the tests. 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 through a mobile phone number given when students register their test. We have experienced occasions where the result does not come through from the NHS Test and

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The Priory Pembroke Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

Registered Company No: 6462935. DfE Registration No: 145052



Trace system. If this is the case, there is no need to worry - the school will inform the student if a positive test is recorded. If you do not receive a notification, you can assume the result was negative. Registering for tests is easier if the student has a smart phone with a QR reader function, although this is not compulsory, tests can be registered for without a phone.

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. A PCR test is available by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

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 students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those who test negative will be able to resume their activities as normal. Results of the test are shared via text or email using the details given when registering.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Pembroke is for people 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>.

Students who have tested positive for COVID within the previous 90 days.

If your child has tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days, they are exempt from testing. Below is the latest guidance from the NHS on this:

People with previous SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis are also eligible for testing but with considerations detailed below:

- *If a student/pupil has tested positive for SARS-COV-2 from a PCR test within the last 90 day, they are likely to have developed some immunity. These individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD tests within 90 days of a positive test, unless they develop new symptoms.*
- *However, if someone chooses to take an LFD test, this should only be done after completion of the required self-isolation period (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>). If they are found positive on LFD test, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.*
- *They are still required to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of a positive case, even if this is within the 90-day window.*

If your child has tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days and you do not want them to take a test within school please inform us via the email pembroke@poryacademies.co.uk

IMPORTANT - Consent

If consent has previously been given there is no need to complete the consent form again.

Parents of all students who have joined Pembroke after March 2021 (including all new Year 7 students) must complete the consent form via the link below.

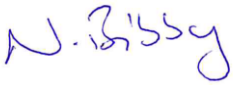
[CONSENT FORM](#)

Children cannot test without consent.

Please ensure the consent form is completed for your child – there is a choice of “I do consent” and “I do not consent” in the form.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office via our usual contact details at the bottom of the page or via pembroke@poryacademies.co.uk.

Kind regards and take care,



Mr N Bibby
Assistant Head
Personal Development and Relationships