



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## **School Operations Update: ease of COVID-19 restrictions, COVID-19 vaccination programme for Years 8 - 11 and return lateral flow testing arrangements** (Autumn term 2021)

Firstly, thank you for all your continued support in what has been a challenging academic year, for everyone. In line with new government guidance issued for August 2021, including return lateral flow testing for all students starting w/c 16<sup>th</sup> August (see timetable within), our aim is to have the smoothest and safest start to the new academic year.

Having now reached Step 4 of the government unlocking roadmap, all secondary schools have been provided with new operational guidance, including ease of restrictions for the new academic year - please see below. These restrictions will be in place at John Ferneley College from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021:

- No longer necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). These have been removed, along with year group locations, zones and marked year group areas across the site.
- Live assemblies and face-to-face school events are to resume on the school calendar, with no restrictions in place.
- International visits are to resume, subject to the global 'travel list' and broader international travel policy.
- All staff and secondary students should continue to test twice weekly upon returning to school. This testing routine is due to be reviewed by the Government at the end of September 2021. We will continue to provide home testing kits for your child/ren regularly, from w/c 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Remember, kits are widely available from local pharmacies or can be ordered online too.
- Face coverings will no longer be advised for staff and students in the school buildings / communal areas. Should your child/ren wish to wear a face covering upon their return to school, they are very welcome to do so.
- Close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace only. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts, not the school. All education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. Therefore, you will be delighted to hear that we will no longer be contacting parents/guardians asking your child/ren to self-isolate as a close contact.
- From Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace, as a close contact. They will just be advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test, if advised to do so.

**Please note:** some control measures could be reintroduced for a temporary period (e.g face coverings or 'bubbles'), should the local authority or Public Health England advise us to do so, due to a local outbreak.

*Please see overleaf....*

## **What happens when an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive case test?**

Students, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. Please do not send in your child/ren if they have symptoms, have received a positive test result or for any reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (*for eg, they are required to self-isolate due to an immediate household member testing positive*). If your child/ren develops any symptoms in school, they will be sent home and they should follow public health advice.

## **Lateral Flow Testing – return arrangements for all students**

As students are potentially mixing with lots of people during the summer holidays, the Government has stipulated that, in all secondary schools, students should complete two Lateral Flow Tests before returning to school in the Autumn term. As a result of this, we will be commencing our testing programme earlier, on-site from w/c 16<sup>th</sup> August. This ensures us that all students will have had two tests, 3-5 days apart, and are ready and prepared to start the new academic year in full, without causing any disruption to learning time. See reminder of return dates listed below:

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August (Year 7 only)
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August (Years 8 – 11).

Please see overleaf for the return testing timetable, week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> August. A copy of this timetable can also be found on the **school website > main menu > latest news > August 2021 update: Coronavirus Guidance for Parents/Guardians > <https://www.johnferneley.org/coronavirusguidance>**

A reminder, that testing is voluntary (students are able to still return to school if consent is not given for testing).

Students must arrive at any time within their designated AM or PM testing session. Our **AM testing session** will run between **8.45am – 12pm**, and our **PM testing session** will run between **12.30pm – 3.30pm**. If you are driving your child/ren to school for their test, please can we ask that all parents/guardians wait in the car park.

**Parents/Guardians of new Year 7 students** are very welcome on-site (one parent only) to escort their child/ren into the testing area, as well as wait with them. We are aware that for many of our new starters, lateral flow testing is quite a daunting start to secondary school, and we want to ensure our students feel as comfortable and as safe as possible with the process. For further information about the testing process itself, please talk through the NHS testing leaflet with your child, [here](#).

## **Consent must be provided for new Year 7 students**

All test subjects must consent to their test results being shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice and Data Protection documentation, found [here](#). If you would like to consent to your child/ren having two return Lateral Flow Tests during the dates below, and for your child/ren to receive test kits home in the Autumn term, please complete the short consent form linked below by **Midday on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

- [Testing - Consent Form](#)

## **What happens if my child/ren cannot attend their test date?**

Where possible, please ensure your child/ren can make their testing day as outlined in the table overleaf. Should your child/ren not be able to attend (for eg, you are on holiday), then please ensure that they test at home and report their test results (positive or negative) via the results form linked below. Remember, kits are widely available from local pharmacies or can be ordered online too.

- [Report your test - Results Form](#)

*Please see overleaf for return Lateral Flow Testing timetable for all year groups....*

## Lateral Flow Testing – return timetable (Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021)

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure your child brings in their mobile phone / a device to school for testing (only). They will need a phone or digital device to register and log their test result this time. We will have a few spare devices on site, for any student who does not have access to a mobile / device.

<b>Date of return test</b>	<b>AM testing session</b> <i>(Please arrive between 8.45am – 12pm)</i>	<b>PM testing session</b> <i>(Please arrive between 12.30pm – 3.30pm)</i>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Year 7 – Test 1 (one parent/guardian welcome on-site)</b>	
Test venue >	Report to the Auditorium between 8.45am – 3.30pm. Bring your tutor group code with you (i.e 7EC)	
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Years 8 and 9 – Test 1</b>	<b>Year 10 – Test 1</b>
Test venue >	Report to Sports Hall:  <b>Year 8 students to arrive between 8.45am – 10am</b>  <b>Year 9 students to arrive between 10am – 12pm</b>	Report to Sports Hall between 12.30pm – 3.30pm)
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Year 11 – Test 1</b>	<b>Year 7 – Test 2 (one parents/guardian welcome on-site)</b>
Test venue >	Report to Sports Hall between 8.45am – 12pm	Report to Sports Hall between 12.30pm – 3.30pm)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Years 8 and 9 – Test 2</b>	<b>Year 10 – Test 2</b>
Test venue >	Report to Sports Hall:  <b>Year 8 students to arrive between 8.45am – 10am</b>  <b>Year 9 students to arrive between 10am – 12pm</b>	Report to Sports Hall between 12.30pm – 3.30pm)
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Year 11 – Test 2</b>	<b><i>(Testing venue open - wrap-up of any students missed)</i></b>
Test venue >	Report to Sports Hall between 8.45am – 12pm	<b><i>(Testing venues open - wrap-up of any students missed)</i></b>

*Please see overleaf....*

## **COVID vaccination – dose 1 and dose 2 for Years 8 – 11**

Following the pandemic and the successful implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in adults, we are anticipating a decision from the government if the COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to young people.

Should this be confirmed upon return in the Autumn term, the Leicestershire NHS Community Immunisation Service are anticipating that this will be given within a school setting during this Autumn/Winter, as a two-dose course. Thus, in the interest of planning the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust have shared provisional covid vaccination dates with us for the new school academic year.

Please see provisional vaccination dates below:

### **Covid Vaccination Dose 1 ~ September 2021**

- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** - for Years 11
- **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September** - for Years 10
- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** - for Years 9
- **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** - for Years 8

### **Covid Vaccination Dose 2 ~ January 2022**

- **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January** - for Years 11
- **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January** - for Years 10
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January** - for Years 9
- **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January** - for Years 8

Please note that we are also awaiting confirmation about the age range that the covid vaccination offer will be extended to. At the moment, it is looking likely to be open to students in Years 8 – 11.

The planning for the programme has been a more complex exercise than usual and Leicestershire NHS Community Immunisation Service are keen to work closely with schools to ensure that children are offered the vital protection that vaccinations offer and are given within recommended timeframes.

I will write to you again in the Autumn term to confirm further details about the covid vaccination programme for young people, including parental consent arrangements.

Thank you to all parents/guardians for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

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