



The Federation of St Francis Special School Lincoln and Lincoln St Christopher's School

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St. Francis SEN School
Wickenby Crescent
Lincoln
LN1 3TJ
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Dear Parent/Carer,

We do hope that you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break, albeit probably a stranger one than we are all used to!

We know that you will all have been inundated by the media's daily updates on the coronavirus situation globally, nationally and locally. You will be also be aware that Lincolnshire moved into Tier 4 yesterday and will have heard about the announcement that secondary school students will be offered lateral flow tests along with the school staff.

Most primary schools are expected to reopen next week but secondary schools are having a staggered start back. However, as an all age special school our students are all expected back in as soon as logistically possible. This does present us with some additional challenges. As a Federation we are working very hard to open St Francis but require some time to sort out the logistics of the implementation of the COVID-19 tests, so that all students can be back in school by the end of next week. The information about the testing was formally passed to schools on the last day of term which left little time to set the processes up. Many of our senior staff have continued to work tirelessly throughout the Christmas holidays dealing with COVID-related issues and enquiries. We now need some staff training time to set this testing system up so that it runs effectively. In order to achieve this we will need a staggered start at the beginning of the term which can be seen below. We know that we can count on your support to achieve this.

Monday 4th January (original training day) – Our testing facility will be set up in the morning and all staff will be tested throughout the day. **No students in school.**

Tuesday 5th January: (rearranged training day to allow staff to keep their training up to date including key staff taking the government lateral flow training). **No students in school.**

Wednesday 6th January: Only students in the following classes return: Becky Houtby, Anita Mackean/Kelly Bramall, Lauren Berry, Tina Clynes, Vicky Stephenson. Normal lessons will take place. Transport will be informed of this information.

Thursday 7th January: As Wednesday, plus students in the following classes: Danny Reeves, Adam Hooker, Sandra Mason, Claire Mc Govern, Becky Small/Lucy Pierrepont, Laura Miles/Lucy Pierrepont, Stacey Waters

Friday 8th January: As Thursday plus Upper school classes and Pheasantry return. **All school will now be in.**

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, the lateral flow tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. The test is voluntary and we are aware that a number of students are unlikely to tolerate the test. We will be testing all staff and the students who are in years 7 upwards, who want to participate next week. Those students taking the test will be supported by trained staff (their training is taking place on the 4th/5th January using the government online training program). The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and

throat, or just a nose swab, depending on which ones we receive in school. Our supportive school nurses will also be involved in the process. We have attached an instructional leaflet which explains how the test is done. For the under-18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

We are anticipating having the lateral flow tests delivered on Monday 4th. By using the first few days in January to test as many staff and students in advance of the majority of students returning, will hopefully allow us to do our very best to get students back to school quickly, yet safely.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below and the enclosed consent statement (one per pupil/student) and return it to the [school/college] office [via email/in person].

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

We know that the news and other media forums are increasing families and children's anxiety about returning to school but as always, we will work with you to ensure that your child's return to school is as positive as it can be. Despite this news, I hope that you are able to celebrate with your household the end of 2020 and welcome in a better 2021.

As ever, we will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can email us at admin@st-francis.lincs.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Janette Davey (Headteacher)

Helen Todd (Headteacher)

Fran Crowther (Interim headteacher)

Registration

To process the test, we will register all participating [pupils/students].

To complete this registration please fill in the form below and complete the enclosed consent statement.

First Name	
Last Name	
Date of Birth	
Gender at birth	
Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?	
Today's date	
Home Postcode	
Email Address	
Mobile Number	

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). [School / college] will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

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

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in [school/college] and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to [school/college] if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of [school/college] who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at [school/college] is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops 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) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.