



GORDONSTOUN

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Thursday, 26 August 2021

COVID-19 asymptomatic testing programme for Gordonstoun Senior School Pupils

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This term we will be continuing to ask students to undertake the Scottish Government's 'Schools Asymptomatic Testing Programme'. This programme is designed to reduce the risk of Covid-19 in schools across Scotland. This letter and guidance will give you more information as to how the programme operates here at Gordonstoun. As the parent of a young person at Gordonstoun who is Under 16, we require your consent for them to undertake this testing.

Why does Gordonstoun participate in the programme?

As part of this programme we ask all asymptomatic (those who don't have symptoms) staff and senior school pupils to have a 'Lateral Flow Test' twice a week, and daily for the first ten days of term. Through this we can then identify anyone who has the virus and then support them with isolating and getting a further PCR test, so that we can stop the spread of Covid-19 through our school community.

If, after carefully reading this letter and the privacy notice attachment, you wish for your child to participate in testing, please ensure that you complete the online [Google Consent](#) no later than Sunday 29 August 2021. We hope that all students will undertake testing.

Who can take part?

The regular testing is open to all Gordonstoun staff and senior school students who are on campus.

Does your child have to take part?

Not if you don't want to. Testing is voluntary. No-one on campus will be prevented from being there, just because they do not wish to participate. However, we are **very strongly encouraging** all students and staff to participate, in order to contribute to the wellbeing of our school community.

What will the testing involve?

Gordonstoun has been given a supply of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits for use at school. These kits will be given to your child on arrival. They will be supported by staff to make sure they are using the tests correctly and logging the results on to the Government portal.

The LFDs provide a result in around 30 minutes. They will be given instructions on how to use the kits by staff and you will also be given an 'Instructions for Use' leaflet. There is also a useful video to show them how to administer the test, available here: [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#).

Once the test has been conducted they must log the test result – whether positive or negative – online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. They will also share the result with the member of staff helping with the testing.

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 will be supported by the Healthcare Centre staff in isolating and booking a PCR test.

NB: A negative test result does not mean that they can then ignore other measures intended to reduce transmission – testing is an additional measure that contributes to reducing risk.

When will it start?

They will begin testing as soon as you return for the Autumn term. The first test will be taken prior to entering their boarding house on Monday 30th August, and they will be directed to where to take the test on arrival.

Thank you for your cooperation with this important safety measure.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Devey
Head of Senior School

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 authorised 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 you test positive using an LFD, it is likely that you 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.

If you have issues with the test

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 tell your Boarding House staff.

What happens if I test positive?

If you receive a positive result on your Lateral Flow Device, you should tell a member of staff in your Boarding House and report the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. You will then be helped by Healthcare Centre and Boarding House staff to isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test.

What happens if I test negative?

You should report the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

What happens if the test result is "void"?

This means the test has not run correctly. You should report the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. You need to take another test. Use a new test kit, and do not reuse anything from the first kit.

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 should immediately tell a member of staff and you will then be supported by the Healthcare Centre.