



26.1.2021

## Lateral Flow Device Testing for Staff

Dear parents & carers,

You may be aware that Government are offering Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing twice a week as an option for primary school staff working on site to try to reduce the transmission of Covid-19.

Late last week guidance was issued and this week tests have been delivered to us. Clarity has been gained on a number of issues and we have discussed testing with staff. We are now ready to issue testing kits and for staff to begin testing.

Testing & managing the results and impact on the school is new to us all and we will do our very best to follow the guidance given. We share the information below with you to keep you informed and enable you to prepare, if possible, as the results of staff testing could affect children working on site now and in the future (when we are allowed to return to school fully).

The results of the LFD test dictate the actions needed to be taken by the staff member and school:

1. If the LFD test result is negative the staff member reports the result to Test and Trace & school but no other action is needed.
2. If the LFD test result is positive, the staff member has to self-isolate immediately. They will report their result to Test and Trace and notify the school. All those who have been in close contact with the staff member will need to self-isolate for 10 days too. Practically, this means that if a staff member has been leading a hub of children on site, the children within the hub/other staff in the hub will need to self-isolate. We will contact parents by text/e-mail as soon as possible in this circumstance. If the LFD result is positive, the staff member will seek a PCR test asap too – if the results of the PCR test are positive the staff member & close contacts continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test result is negative the staff member & close contacts can return to school. We have been informed that false positives on a LFD test are rare.
3. If LFD test result is void, the staff member will undertake another LFD test and the process outlined in 1 or 2 will be followed. In the unlikely case of double void results on the LFD tests, the staff member will need to self-isolate and seek a PCR test as soon as possible. In this case, close contacts do not need to isolate.

For practical reasons staff will undertake the test in the evening, before 7pm, rather than in the morning as suggested in guidance. We have been told this is fine and many schools have chosen this option. This will enable us to contact 'close contacts' the evening rather than in the morning which we believe would be challenging for working parents in the case of a positive result.

Please do make sure we have up-to-date contact details for you – I know it is easy to forget when mobile phones are changed.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu

Headteacher