



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our ref: JMK/SXG

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Covid-19 Testing Update

As we come to the end of our first week back since the Government announced schools could reopen to all students, it has been wonderful to see our students return and to see just how happy they are to resume their learning in school and to see their friends.

This week has been very busy with the school starting the mass testing of students for asymptomatic Covid-19 cases using the school-based Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. These tests are different to the home testing kits and are undertaken in controlled conditions. We have employed a certified company with trained staff to carry out these tests. I am very pleased to say that all students for whom consent was given by parents have now received their first test and we are currently working our way through the year groups with second and third tests.

We have now carried out over 1,500 school-based LFD tests. We have had 1 student this week who has tested positive to the LFD test and this has resulted in a small group of students being asked to self-isolate. I understand the anxiety this creates in asking students to self-isolate again, especially as they have only just returned to school. However, this is essential to limit any potential spread of the virus further, given that asymptomatic cases are the most infectious and these cases would not normally have been detected. The school-based LFD tests are recommended by Public Health England (PHE) as clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus.

If your child does test positive from a school-based LFD test, they must isolate for 10 days following NHS guidance. If your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive through a school-based LFD test, they must also isolate for 10 days following NHS guidance. As the school-based LFD tests are carried out under controlled conditions, PHE and the Department for Education (DfE) have clearly stated that the results of a school-based test cannot be overturned through a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) lab-based test.

We have had a number of parents making late requests for their child to have a school-based LFD test or who submitted incorrect information on the consent form. Unfortunately, it is not possible to process the late submission of consent forms because the school information and student registration has to be uploaded in bulk to the NHS website before the school has permission to commence any tests. There is no opportunity to make late entries. If your child has not had a school-based LFD test, I recommend you use the home LFD testing kits, which are about to be issued to students, or you can collect one from the Lincolnshire Showground.

Please refer to my letter dated 11 March 2021, which explains how the home testing LFD kits will be issued to students week commencing Monday 15 March 2021 and how they should be used. The home testing LFD kits detect asymptomatic cases in an uncontrolled environment. PHE and the DfE have clearly stated that if a positive result is received from an LFD home test kit, the student must immediately self-isolate and obtain a PCR test. If the PCR test is negative, the student can return to school.

I would urge all parents to use the LFD home testing kits on a regular basis to enhance detection and to protect our whole school community.

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Please can I remind all parents that 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 not come to school and immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test. If you are in any doubt, please take your child for a PCR test.

I am confident that collectively we can all work together to minimise the impact and potential transmission of Covid-19 in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Knowler', written in a cursive style.

**Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher**