

Thursday 18th March 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Asymptomatic Testing of Learners at Home

We had an exceptional response to our invitation for learners to participate in the mass testing programme on return to school. The overwhelming majority of learners have participated in the testing programme in school and learners have conducted themselves extremely maturely and professionally over the course of last and this week. Their behaviour is to be truly commended.

Whilst our onsite mass testing operations will end at the end of the week, all learners are now being expected to regularly test themselves at home for coronavirus.

All learners, regardless of whether they consented to the onsite testing programme will be provided with two boxes of home testing kits to take home with them tomorrow afternoon. Each box contains three Lateral Flow Device tests, which is three weeks worth of testing twice per week. Families do not need to provide consent for participation in the home testing programme. You can find the privacy notice for home testing by clicking [here](#).

Full instructions on how to perform the test accompany the testing kits and a series of instructional videos on how to self-test are also available on YouTube by clicking [here](#).

From Sunday 21st March, we are asking all learners **without symptoms of coronavirus** to test themselves for coronavirus at home **every Sunday and Wednesday evenings** prior to attending school the following day. Those learners in Year 7 who are still 11 years of age will be required to have the test conducted on them by an appropriate adult within their household.

Learners who have symptoms of coronavirus (high temp, cough, loss of taste/smell) should not use the LFD tests to ascertain if they have coronavirus. The usual protocol for learners with symptoms should be followed, whereby they arrange a PCR test at an approved government testing site and self-isolate with their household until the result of the test is known.

Families do not need to report the result of their LFD Test to school unless it is positive. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace. In the event of a positive LFD test, however, families should make contact with school via the main office (during school hours) or by emailing covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk (out of hours). Learners who have positive tests will be required to have a confirmatory PCR test at a government approved testing site within 24 hours of the LFD test result.

Attendance at school is not conditional on the tests having been done. No learner will be prevented from attending school as a result of not having had a LFD test. However, we do encourage all families to participate.

Household members of learners can also access regular testing using LFD tests through Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Packs of Lateral Flow Devices are now available for family members of school children to collect from local testing sites. TMBC are recommending that any adults living with or in a support bubble/informal childcare bubble with children attending an education setting, should carry out at-home lateral flow testing twice a week. These can be collected from Darnton Road, Ashton and Beeley Street, Hyde testing sites from 1:30-7pm each day. These should only be used for people without symptoms. There's also a [link](#) for online ordering of these for people who can't get to the local sites.

Attached to this document is a series of Frequently Asked Questions with answers about home testing. You can also find helpful resources on home testing on TMBC's website by clicking [here](#).

As ever, should you require any further information or if you are having difficulties using the home testing kits, then please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael Potter
Education Welfare Manager

Home Testing FAQs

Who is being tested and why?

Testing all staff and learners without symptoms will support the school to continue to operate.

Staff and learners will be tested using antigen Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) which enable the rapid testing at home without the need for a laboratory.

What if my child has symptoms of coronavirus?

If your child has symptoms of coronavirus (high temp, cough or loss of taste/smell) then do not use the LFD tests. You should follow the guidance for suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus – self-isolate, book a test and keep school informed.

Do I need to provide additional consent for my child to participate?

No, testing at home does not require written medical consent, consent is given in the very act of completing the test. Participation, whilst strongly encouraged, is voluntary, and learners will not be prevented from going into the education setting if they do not take part.

The privacy notice for testing at home is available on our website or by clicking [here](#).

How will my child receive their testing kit?

School has been provided with enough test kits for all members of staff and learners. Tests come in packs of 3 and two packs of 3 is enough tests for one learner for 3 weeks. Learners will collect a pack or packs of tests from school every 3 weeks. School keeps a log of all the test kits distributed to learners and staff.

Once at home, ensure the test kits are stored at a temperature between 15 and 30 degrees.

What do I do if there are any issues with the tests?

Please notify Mrs Charles in the main office who will provide additional support and information.

When will testing take place?

Testing will take place twice weekly at home (3 to 4 days apart) prior to learners coming into the education setting.

We expect all learners to be tested:

- **After 7 pm on a Sunday**
- **After 7 pm on a Wednesday**

All testing should be undertaken and test results known, prior to learners attending school.

How do learners complete the test at home?

You should follow the instructions (v. 1.3.2) given with the test kit. These instructions come separately from the pack and replaces the instructions inside the box.

Learners must wait 30 minutes after eating or drinking before completing the test.

A series of instructional videos on how to self-test are also available on YouTube by clicking [here](#).

Learners in Year 7 who are still 11 years old should have the test performed on them by an appropriate adult at home.

How do I report my child's result?

Positive results should be reported immediately to school. Out of hours, positive results should be emailed to: covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk. During working hours, positive results should be reported via the main office.

Families do not need to report negative results to school.

Families must also report your result to NHS Test and Trace by clicking [here](#).

What to do if the result is positive?

As the LFD test is undertaken at home, any positive LFD result requires a confirmatory PCR test.

Learners in receipt of a positive LFD test should notify school and then arrange a confirmatory PCR test. You can book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. The PCR test must take place within 24 hours of the LFD test.

The positive LFD test should be treated as a confirmed positive and your household should self-isolate for 10 days and/or until the results of the PCR test are known.

In the event the PCR test is negative households can end their isolation and resume normal activities. If the PCR test confirms the positive result, your household should remain in self-isolation for the remainder of the 10 day isolation period.

What to do if the test result is void?

Take another test.

Does testing remove the need for other protective measures?

No. Testing should be viewed as an additional, rather than a replacement, protective measure.

Staff should still maintain 'hand-face-space'.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about home testing?

Please contact the main office in the first instance.