

17th March 2021

Dear parent/carer,

RE: LFT Student Home Testing

Since the 3rd March our asymptomatic testing centre has been open and testing all students who gave consent. We have been very impressed with the professionalism displayed by our students and are happy to report we conducted over 800 tests, which helped us to ensure our school is safe and that students are fully aware of the process before we move to home testing.

Below outlines the key information you need to be aware of to support your child with their home testing kit.

What testing are we asking students to do?

Students should conduct a test twice a week, 3-5 days apart.

When and where will students get their test kits?

We will start to issue home test kits directly to students on Friday 19th March, to begin testing WB 22nd March. Each testing kit contains three test kits. We will issue students with three kits, to ensure they have enough to carry testing throughout the Easter holidays. Students need to test twice a week, on a Monday and a Thursday.

How is a test taken?

Before a test is taken you are required to read the privacy notice enclosed with this letter. Instructions on how to undertake a test are provided with the test kit. However, should you prefer a visual guide, a link to a series of short YouTube videos is provided below.

Testing and processing is very simple, all the equipment is provided and there is no mixing of chemicals. Students may swab themselves but they should be supervised to ensure they conduct the test correctly.

<https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Remember students will have already completed the swab part of the test three times, in school and will be well practised at doing this.

What do I need to do once my child has taken a test?

By taking a test, you are obliged to report ALL results to both the NHS and the school. Please use the following links to report ALL results.

To report to school:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=GO7B01t5ske0wJc0nDNaDrFwIVPblgpNi-za3fTS1QRUNK1JQU5UWTZISKFPRIJINUZDTE9FU0EwUj4u>

To report to the NHS

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

The Academy is not able to view the results that are reported to the NHS, but we are required to keep an in house register of all results. This will allow us to manage bubbles, stock, distribution of kits and identify any issues. Data is kept and stored in line with GDPR and Data Protection requirements as outlined in the privacy notice.

What happens if my child tests positive?

You must report the result as outlined above. A PCR test should be booked and your child should self-isolate until the result is received. Please do not send your child to school if they test positive. You must notify us if the result is positive: kate.ward@e-act.org.uk so we can support you.

Incident Reporting

You should report any clinical incidents with testing to <https://coronavirussyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> Examples of clinical issues could include swab breaking in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reactions etc.

Is home testing compulsory?

No. We will provide home test kits to all students that have returned consent forms. Those who are not participating in home testing must follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and get tested if they show symptoms. You must still inform school so we are able to implement track and trace protocols to protect others.

Can other family members use the test kits?

No. These kits are solely for use by the students.

Can these tests be used for symptomatic cases?

No. These tests can only be used for asymptomatic purposes. If your child has symptoms, please book them in for a Covid-19 PCR test and do not send them to school.

We would strongly encourage all students to participate in the home testing programme so we are able to take early action and prevent further mass disruption to education provision. Should you have any further questions around home testing please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Kate Ward

Mrs Kate Ward
Deputy Headteacher