

# Alder Community High School

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Headteacher: Mr R O'Regan BSc (Hons) NPQH

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Dear parent/carer,

## **Covid-19 Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device Testing at Home**

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can help to do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

In line with the DfE Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance, which was updated in July 2021, students have had the opportunity to take 2 tests within school under the supervision of trained staff. We are now issuing self-test kits to allow the opportunity for students to test at home twice per week.

**We would like tests to be regularly carried out on Wednesday and Sunday early evening where possible.**

### **Testing at home**

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing easily making it part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in asymptomatic testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not.

Each test kit contains 7 tests and instructions of the how the test needs to be carried out. Further tests kits can be collected from the school office as required.

**Please note that lateral flow testing is not necessary within the first 90 days of testing positive for Covid-19.**

### **Taking the test**

Home tests should be carried out twice per week, preferably every Sunday and Wednesday evening. A leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test will be given with the test kit. There is further information and also a useful video to show you how to take the test on our website <https://aldercommunityhighschool.org.uk/school-life/covid-19-testing>

It is important to report ALL test results including negatives to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

[Help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

There is no need to keep used test equipment. After the test result has been reported, you can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.



## What should you do if the result is POSITIVE?

If your child's home LFD test result is positive, please e mail [covid-alert@alderchs.uk](mailto:covid-alert@alderchs.uk) as soon as possible. This will allow school staff to monitor the number of cases and liaise with Public Health colleagues.

You will also need to report the result to NHS Test and Trace <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. You should also arrange for a PCR test at an NHS testing site or via a postal test. School has a supply of postal PCR tests which are available on request.

If your child (or anyone in your household) tests positive, they should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

If the follow up PCR test returns a negative result your child can return to school.

## What should you do if the result is VOID or NEGATIVE?

If the result of the test is **void or unclear** you should do another test.

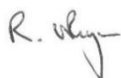
**Negative and void results** should be reported to **NHS Test & Trace** (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>). It is no longer necessary to report negative tests to school directly, as we are able to monitor the number of tests being carried out via the DfE Covid-19 response monitoring dashboard.

## Why testing is important?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all staff and students to take part. Testing at home will help to reduce the spread of the virus.

If you have any questions or concerns about home testing please do not hesitate to contact school.

Thank you for your support.



**Mr R O'Regan**  
**Headteacher**

