



## GUISELEY SCHOOL

11 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you on the asymptomatic mass testing programme in school using the lateral flow tests. I am pleased to report that we have completed the first round of testing of students in school with the vast majority of students taking part in the programme.

The most recent evaluations from PHE and the University of Oxford show that LFD tests are accurate, reliable and successfully identify those with coronavirus (COVID-19) who could pass on the virus without realising. The tests have extremely low rates of false positives. It has been confirmed to us that LFD tests taken on test sites, such as in schools, do not need a confirmatory PCR test. This is because these tests are done in a controlled environment and trained staff read the results.

Given the enormous increase in capacity which has been provided to the national testing programme by schools delivering the lateral flow testing, daily tests have doubled from 750,000 tests a day to over 1.5 million tests completed. This has increased demand on the NHS test and trace email and text system. Prior to the mass testing by schools results were being received within 2 minutes of their input onto the NHS reporting site. Schools have reported delays of over 4 hours in results now being received after their input.

**Schools are required to maintain a log of all the test results in school and should you fail to receive your result after 24 hours we can provide this to you.** In the event of a positive result it is highly likely that school will contact you before you receive the NHS notification as you would need to collect your child and isolate in line with PHE guidance.

When we have completed the third round of testing in school, students will be transitioning to home testing where they have given consent for testing. We will be writing to you with more detail about this next week. In the event that a student who is taking part in the home testing receives a positive test result this **will** need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests conducted at home are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil or student and their close contacts should self-isolate. **If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.**

If you would like your child to take part in home testing **and have not yet given consent** please can you email [data@guiseleyschool.org.uk](mailto:data@guiseleyschool.org.uk) and we will provide you with information on how to give consent.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Vasey  
Deputy Headteacher

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