

Thursday 11th February 2021

Dear Families,

Re: Coronavirus Testing and Contact Tracing

You will no doubt be aware that learners have been offered, on their return to school since January, access to two lateral flow tests for coronavirus. It has been really pleasing that the vast majority of learners have accessed these tests at our school's test site.

Since I wrote to you in January (click [here](#) for the original information letter), the Department for Education (DfE) has made two significant changes to the protocols around testing:

- Learners or staff testing positive for coronavirus on a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, no longer need to have a confirmatory PCR test. A positive Lateral Flow Test is to be treated as a positive result and households should follow government guidance on isolation.
- The DfE had hoped that close contacts of confirmed cases of coronavirus would be able to remain in school so long as they accessed daily LFD tests. Unfortunately, this is longer the case and close contacts will have to self-isolate as was the protocol before.

In our efforts to continue to keep Longdendale High School as safe as possible during the closure, we plan to **test all learners** who are accessing onsite provision **on their return to school after the February Half Term Holiday**. As was the case this half term, learners will be offered **two tests** – on Monday 22nd February and Thursday 25th February – at the school's testing site. Separate testing arrangements will be made for learners who access provision part-time.

The DfE require us to obtain further **consent** for learners to be tested again in February. Whilst I appreciate that families have already given consent once before, I would be extremely grateful if **families could complete the consent form** linked below to indicate whether or not they want their child to participate in this further series of testing. Families should complete the consent form by midday on Friday 12th February 2021.

You can access the consent form by clicking [here](#).

Finally, as with all previous school holidays, we will be providing a track and trace service over the half term, so can I please request that families report any confirmed cases of coronavirus to school via our dedicated email – covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk – so that school can take the necessary steps to identify and notify close contacts.

As ever, should you wish to discuss any of the information contained within this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully,
Dr Michael Potter
Education Welfare Manager