



# Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

All students where parents have given consent will have been tested three times in school by the end of this week, unless they have been absent one of the days. Students have shown incredible maturity during the testing process, yet we now need to move to twice-weekly home testing from next week.

Your son or daughter has been given their home-testing Lateral Flow Device (LFD) kit today. We are giving all students a testing kit. Parents who rejected consent for in-school testing may feel more comfortable doing it at home, but of course this is not compulsory. Staff at Montgomery are now testing twice-weekly at home themselves and we have suggested that they get in to a routine of testing on a Wednesday and Sunday. The 2 tests in the week need to be 3-5 days apart.

The home testing kits have all the required instructions and materials to complete the testing at home. Your son/daughter has been given 6 tests which should last them until the end of the Easter holiday, so please could you make sure they use their last test on the Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April or Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April. This means that we can be confident about all students returning at the start of the Summer term on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.

As part of the process described in the Home Test kits, all results should be registered via the NHS website.

**Please can I make clear that this testing is to identify students that are asymptomatic, ie who are carrying the virus but may not be experiencing any symptoms. Therefore, the home testing does not replace testing for those with COVID-19 symptoms.**

If your son or daughter has symptoms they must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow the national guidelines. This applies to all members of your household and if they are showing symptoms, then your child should not be in school.

By doing the home testing, like our staff, we are all helping keep the transmission of the virus as low as we can. Although local and national infection rates are thankfully far lower now, we all know that things can change quickly.

## Taking the test

To complete the test takes about 5 minutes and then there is a 30 minute wait for the result, so allowing enough time is important. Students who have had the three tests in school know what to do, though should be supervised to adhere to the instructions given. If students have not taken the test before or parents want to see what is involved before supervising then there is good video to watch [here](#). (This link will only work on the electronic version of this letter)

When completed and the result is clear the tests and all waste can be disposed in a normal bin.

## What to do with the result?

**If the result comes up as void** then your son or daughter should take another test straight away. We have completed 2500 tests in school in the last week and only had 2 void tests, but if this does happen let us know and we will give your child another test, so they still have the full complement until after Easter.

**If the result is negative** then please register the result through the NHS website per the instruction in the kit. There is a recording sheet in the kits to keep a log of the results and please also register each negative result with the school through a Google Form which we will send out each week via text.

**If the result is positive** then your household and any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately for 10 days and you should book a PCR test to confirm the LFD result. You can book a PCR test through the government website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

You also need to inform the school as soon as possible so that we can complete any contact tracing we need to do. You can call the school during normal school hours on (01253) 356271 or email **admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk** out of hours, stating your child's name, year group and when they were last in school.

#### Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to take part in weekly testing.

Home testing kits for adults are available locally.

You can collect your test kits from the Yeadon Way Covid testing site between 1pm – 8pm, Monday to Sunday

Also, from Monday 22 March, you can also collect tests from any of the symptom-free testing hub sessions listed on the council website → [www.blackpool.gov.uk/GettingTested](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/GettingTested)

No appointment needed - just give your name and contact details on arrival

If you are unable to get to a testing site, you can order tests online → <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the home testing then please email

**covidtesting@montgomery.fcat.org.uk**

Please support the minimising of the risks at Montgomery by participating in the twice-weekly home testing as much as you can.

Thank you, as ever, for your fantastic support.



Mr. Careless