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20th January 2021

Update on Mass Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) at Tor View

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

I am writing to share key information regarding the future of Mass Lateral Flow Testing at Tor View. For the avoidance of doubt, Lateral Flow Tests are only permitted to be carried out on people who are not displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. Anyone presenting with symptoms such as a high temperature, cough or loss of taste/smell should stay at home and arrange for a test at a test centre where a 'PCR' test will be carried out. Usual isolation guidance applies in these cases.

The Government provided schools with guidance on a 3-pronged approach to testing, which has been broadly publicized in the media, and I wish to share what this means for us all here at Tor View:

- 1. Testing as many secondary pupils and FE college students on their return to school as possible. This means two Lateral Flow tests three to five days apart.**

For those Secondary and Further Education learners, who we received consent and were able to access the test, we have completed a LFT twice within 3 and 5 days, since Monday the 11th January. Please be aware the Government offer for learners, **does not** include weekly testing.

- 2. Carry out weekly testing of school and college staff.**

This began week commencing 11th January 2021 and will continue for as long as required. Today, the Government have requested that testing of staff should increase to twice weekly to provide further re-assurance and break the chains of transmission. The testing offer is voluntary; however, we are extremely pleased with the staff uptake.

- 3. Carry out daily contact testing for seven days of pupils and students and staff who are close contacts of a positive case.**

Earlier this week, Tor View Governors, Angela Holdsworth (CEO of the Sea View Trust) and myself, reviewed available information, advice and guidance from a range of sources including the NHS and

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Public Health England. We concluded that that the safest model for pupils and staff is to continue to follow the 10-day bubble isolation guidance following a confirmed positive case.

This morning, we received notification from Secretary of State, Gavin Williamson, that the Government is pausing daily contact testing with immediate effect pending further assessment. This reflects the higher prevalence and rates of transmission of the new variant, and we feel that our own assessment of the situation was therefore the right one.

If you have any questions about testing then please contact our Parent Liaison Officer, Mrs Daly either by email, telephone or text message. As ever, we will keep you informed of any changes to the government guidance, once we have had an opportunity to assess its impact in our school.

Please stay as safe as possible as we continue to pull together, protect the NHS and save lives. Let us hope that with vaccines on the horizon we may be able to return to some normality in the not too distant future.

Best wishes



Mrs Louise Parrish
Headteacher



Mrs Elayne Lorenzo
Chair of Governors

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