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'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'

26th January 2021

RE: Rapid LFD testing of primary school workforce for Covid- 19

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will by now be aware that the government has announced their intention to roll out a programme of **Rapid Testing of all Staff within the School Community for Covid-19**. In order to support us with implementing this process, please read the information in this letter.

Why is asymptomatic testing being introduced to adults in school?

Up to one in three people who have the virus have it without symptoms. This means they are asymptomatic and could be spreading the disease unknowingly. Rapid asymptomatic testing means that we can now introduce testing of staff twice a week.

Who is being tested and why?

Testing is important because staff could be carrying the virus without knowing it and may spread it to others. Testing all staff without symptoms will support schools and nurseries to continue to operate. **Testing will help to break chains of transmission.**

How will rapid Covid-19 testing work?

We are implementing rapid Covid-19 testing in school for all school adults from **Wednesday 27th January**. We are working hard to ensure we are ready to deliver this process safely. The schedule outlined for testing is subject to receiving the correct amount of testing kits on Tuesday 26th January.

What is a rapid Covid-19 test?

A rapid Covid-19 test involves a simple swab, which staff can administer themselves in their own home.

How will the testing work?

All school staff will be supplied with at-home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test kits which they will be using twice weekly before coming into work. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in about 30 minutes.

At Priestley will be conducting the LFD tests on a Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

What happens if a school adult tests positive for Covid-19?

- ✓ If a school adult tests positive for Covid-19 we will implement the 'Bubble' isolation system immediately and your child must self-isolate and follow the government guidance linked here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>.
- ✓ As school staff are testing on Sunday and Wednesday evenings you may receive a text message during those evenings to make you aware of the situation. Your child must immediately self-isolate for 10 days. We will provide HLPs for the children to complete during their isolation time.
- ✓ The member of staff will also be required to complete an **additional PCR test**. If the result of the **PCR test** comes back negative, we can suspend the isolation and children can come back to school.

Is participation compulsory?

The Department for Education expects all primary schools, junior schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nurseries to participate and offer at-home test kits to staff. However, it is voluntary for staff to participate. Staff who decline to participate can still attend school as normal.

Regards

Mr Marsh-Ballard