



31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## IMPORTANT- Lateral Flow Tests

As Lateral Flow Testing (home test) kits are now available for all parents and households of primary aged children, we thought it would be helpful to send out some more information about these tests and how they can be used to prevent the spread of Covid-19 among the school community.

### What is a Lateral Flow Test?

This is a Covid-19 test that you can carry out yourself at home. The results show up within half an hour, meaning you do not need to send off your swab to be tested in a lab. You can find out more about how to swab yourself or your child by watching [this YouTube video](#).

### What is the purpose of the Lateral Flow Tests?

Lateral Flow Tests are used to pick up asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 that would otherwise have gone undetected. Every time a positive case is identified through a Lateral Flow Test, this prevents further spread of the virus through the community. Regular testing using Lateral Flow Tests is therefore a hugely important tool in preventing the spread of Coronavirus via those that do not display any symptoms.

### Why is this so important?

Lateral Flow Tests are a really important way for us to prevent the spread of Covid-19 through the school community, which will in turn reduce the number of bubble closures in the long term. To illustrate, this weekend a child in Year 5 took a Lateral Flow Test that came back positive, so the child was taken for a PCR test. This PCR test came back positive as well, meaning that the Year 5 bubble was closed as a result. As this child has not shown any symptoms of Covid-19, they would have been at school every day this week had it not been for the Lateral Flow Test they did at home. This in turn could have potentially caused an outbreak within not only the yeargroup bubble, but also the wider school community.

### How often should I do a Lateral Flow Test?



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It is advised that you and the rest of your household should aim to test twice a week for the programme to work effectively.

## Is a Lateral Flow Test the same as a PCR test?

No- Lateral Flow Tests **must not** be used instead of a PCR test (which is the test that is carried out either at a testing centre or at home and is posted off for the results). **If you are showing symptoms of Covid-19 you must go for a PCR test, a Lateral Flow Test cannot be used instead.** Similarly, if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 you cannot use a Lateral Flow Test (or a PCR test) to end your self-isolation period early.

## What happens if I get a negative result on a Lateral Flow Test?

You do not need to self-isolate and can carry on as normal. Although a negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus, this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all coronavirus advice, including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

## What happens if I get a positive result on a Lateral Flow Test?

You should do the same as you would do if you were showing symptoms of Covid-19- you and your household should immediately self-isolate and you should book a PCR test to confirm your results. You'll then need to inform school. At this point school would treat it as a suspected case, meaning that we'd only close a bubble if a child had a positive Lateral Flow Test **and** a positive PCR test to confirm. If your Lateral Flow Test was positive but your PCR test was negative, you would be able to end your isolation and carry on as normal.

## How you can help

Based on the information above, we'd like to encourage as many of our families as possible to take part in the Lateral Flow Testing programme. **We are particularly encouraging parents to test themselves and their children before coming back to school after Easter.** As national restrictions ease, we'd like to ensure that wherever possible cases are not brought into school following the two-week break.



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## Where can I get Lateral Flow Test kits?

Test kits can be collected from local testing sites in Manchester. Most collection points are open from 1.30pm to 7pm and those using the service do not need to make an appointment, but they should not visit a collection point outside opening hours, as it may be used to test people with coronavirus symptoms outside these times. You can collect testing kits from local testing sites in Manchester, at the following locations:

- Armitage / Moseley Road - Lower Carpark, Fallowfield
- Ancoats Central Retail Park, Ancoats & Beswick
- Belle Vue Speedway, Longsight
- Brownley Road, Woodhouse Park
- Birchall Way (Former Landrover garage), Hulme
- Denmark Road Building, Rusholme
- Platt Fields Park, Fallowfield
- Ukrainian Cultural Centre, Cheetham

If you have any further questions about the Lateral Flow Testing programme, please email [e.linton@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:e.linton@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk)

Kind regards,  
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