

24th February 2021

Dear Staff,

Re: Covid-19 Lateral Flow Device Testing

On 23rd February, the Government issued [Operational Guidance](#) to schools recommending that staff undertake a Covid-19 test twice a week at home.

The primary purpose of the home Covid-19 test is to identify **asymptomatic** individuals (those who are infectious but do not have any symptoms), who subsequently have to self-isolate, thereby reducing transmission in school and the need for others ('contacts') to self-isolate.

I wish to be clear, that a home Covid-19 test is not mandatory and staff will not be discriminated against should they decide not to engage in the testing programme.

The test itself is a [Lateral Flow Device \(LFD\)](#). LFDs are a rapid test for Covid-19 that gives a result in about 30 minutes. The test is a small swab brushed against your tonsils and inside one nostril. The swab is put into a device which works a bit like a pregnancy-test kit.

The Academy will provide staff with LFD test kits. In terms of administering the test, please watch the following video - [LFD Self-Testing](#).

Staff will need to report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone, in line with the instructions in the home test kit.

If a member of staff records a **positive** result, they will need to notify the Academy, and arrange for a confirmatory PCR test. Enclosed are a list of local PCR test centres.

If you intend to undertake twice weekly Covid-19 tests, in the first instance, please e-mail Mr. S. Sterling.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. N. Houchen
Principal



Believe, Succeed, Together

Local Test Centres

Hamlet Court Road

Postcode: SS0 7DD

Standard opening times: 9am to 3pm, 7 days a week

Info: This site is open to drive-through and walk-up appointments

Parking: available

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms. The tests are free

Short Street

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 8am to 8pm

Parking: Town centre parking

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms. The tests are free.

You can [book a test on the .gov.uk website](#) or call 119. If you don't have symptoms, please select "no" to "do you have symptoms" and then select "my local authority has asked me to have a test"

Southend Airport

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 9am to 3pm

Parking: available

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms. The tests are free.

You can [book a test on the .gov.uk website](#) or call 119. If you don't have symptoms, please select "no" to "do you have symptoms" and then select "my local authority has asked me to have a test"

Elm Road

Standard opening hours: 7 days a week 8am to 8pm

Parking: parking available on site and on surrounding streets

Accessibility: accessible to all

Type of test: PCR testing site for people with or without symptoms. The tests are free.

You can [book a test on the .gov.uk website](#) or call 119. If you don't have symptoms, please select "no" to "do you have symptoms" and then select "my local authority has asked me to have a test"