



All Members of Staff

Stubbins Primary School

Date: 26th January 2021

NHS Test and Trace: Voluntary COVID-19 Testing for Staff

Dear Member of Staff,

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help you and other staff members to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools. I am therefore strongly encouraging all staff to take the tests.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommend two LFD tests 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using a LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

Initial return to testing

Staff will be able to take the tests every week from Sunday 31st January 2021. Staff attending school will be conducting these tests at home, twice a week and can collect tests from Stubbins School Headteacher's office, from Wednesday 27th January 2021.

Stubbins Primary School

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Tel: 01706 822063

www.stubbins.lancs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr A J Danson BEd, NPQH



TEST PACKS MUST BE GIVEN TO YOU BY A MEMBER OF THE SLT OR OFFICE MANAGER AND A RECORD KEPT – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE A TEST PACK YOURSELF.

How the tests work

Staff will be able to collect from school LFD test kits which enable self-testing from home. Staff will conduct the test twice a week **on Sunday and Wednesday evenings before 6:30pm**. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test.

The Video, and all documentation relating to Staff COVID testing can be found on the school website under COVID-19 – STAFF COVID TESTING.

<https://www.stubbins.lancsngfl.ac.uk/page/staff-covid-testing/93239>

Once the test has been conducted you will log the test result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> (This link is also on the school webpage above) and need to also, separately, inform school of the test result. You will also receive a notification of a positive or negative result from NHS Test & Trace. Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the school.

Consent / Privacy

Testing is not compulsory. **Once staff understand the testing process and read a privacy notice, if they choose to participate, they are committing to self-administer the test and provide their results.** Schools should ensure that staff provide their results (positive, negative or void) to NHS Test and Trace via the self-report gov.uk page. Results should also be shared with school / nursery to support local contact tracing.

Staff who do not wish to participate can still attend school if not symptomatic. They should follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and anyone should [get tested](#) if they show symptoms.

We will support our staff throughout but let us know if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A J Danson
Headteacher

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