

18th March 2021

Home Testing for Coronavirus using Lateral Flow Devices

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

We were delighted to welcome all of our students back to school this week and have been so very impressed with their respectful and brave attitudes on their return.

Alongside the other control measures we have put in place to ensure students and staff can work in an environment that is as safe as possible, we are strongly encouraging all students and their families, households and support bubbles to take part in the home testing programme for coronavirus, twice a week. Further details of the government's programme can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19tests-per-person-per-week?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=813f5236-80a6-4440-bd45-db9f6692837d&utm_content=daily

How will the home testing work?

Your child/ren have been given this letter, along with two packs of three lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, and a set of instructions. The LFD test kits have a barcode on them, which has been logged by the academy against your child's name. This will allow any lost, damaged or misused test kits to be traced back to the relevant student.

All students have now watched a video explaining how the test should be done, and informed of the process to follow when they carry out their tests. A reminder that students aged 11 must be swabbed by a parent / carer. They have also watched a presentation on the LFD testing process during lessons. If you wish to watch the video it can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

Further tests will be given to students on a fortnightly basis as tests are used at home. We will also provide test kits for use over the Easter holidays.

You as parent / carer or your child **MUST** log every test results on our online form which is at this link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AiredaleAcademyLFDTestResults/> and they **MUST** also log their results on the NHS Test and Trace website - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> The result of every test must be recorded in both places please in line with government and Public Health guidance.

Can other people in the household use the school test kits?

No. The barcodes for these kits will be registered to the student. The government is providing separate test kits for families, households and support bubbles with school-aged children. You can find your nearest collection site for these kits here - <https://find-covid-19-rapid-testsites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Respect • Ambition • Bravery

Once I have the LFD test results, what do I do?Negative:

If the result is negative, the student can attend school as normal, as long as they are not showing any coronavirus symptoms. Please remember that a negative test result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus, so you should continue to follow the safety precautions: wash hands regularly; wear a face mask; maintain social distancing.

Void:

If the test result is void, it must be repeated a second time using another test from your pack. If the result of the second test is also void then the academy must be informed, a PCR test must be booked, and the student must self-isolate until they get the result of the PCR test.

If the second test is negative, the student can return to school. If the second test is positive, a PCR test must be booked, and the student and your household must self-isolate until a result is received from the PCR test. If the PCR test result is negative, the student can return to school.

In all cases, all results must be logged on the academy online form, voids, positives and negatives. The form can be found at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AiredaleAcademyLFDTestResults/>

Positive:

If the result of the LFD test is positive, a PCR test must be booked, and the student and your household must self-isolate. If the PCR test result is negative, the student can return to school; we ask that you send us straight away a screenshot of the negative result as you have been doing since we returned to school. The student can return to school provided they are not displaying any symptoms. If they are displaying any symptoms, please contact a medical professional for advice before returning to school.

When should students carry out the tests?

Students should test themselves at home twice a week, preferably in the morning before coming to school if possible. If this is not possible, then tests can be completed the night before.

How should we dispose of the LFD test kit and packaging?

The outer packaging provided with the LFD test kits can be recycled. All of the used test kit (swabs, cartridges and devices) should be placed in the small waste bag provided with the kit, and disposed of in your **non-recycled** household waste.

What if there's a problem with testing?

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling 119, and also tell the academy.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, seek medical care by calling 111 or 999 (if it is an emergency). Please also report the problem using this link - <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

Privacy/Consent

The Trust's privacy notice explains what happens to the data provided in relation to the testing process, and has been shown to all students. It can be seen here - <https://www.airedaleacademy.com/coronavirus/>

Please note that students and parents/carers DO NOT need to give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. All students have been given the opportunity to carry out testing at home, and consent to this is assumed once a test kit has been opened.

By testing regularly, we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. Although participation in the testing programme is voluntary, we are strongly encouraging all students and their families to take part.

Students will be supported throughout but if you have any questions please contact the academy office on 01977 664555 or info@airedaleacademy.com

Yours faithfully



Miss L Proctor
Principal