

Queen's Inclosure Primary School

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COVID-19 TESTING OF SCHOOL STAFF

Dear Parents/Carer,

In line with the introduction of the Government's programme for testing of staff in schools, we are pleased to be in receipt of Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) for all of our staff.

School Staff have been asked to self-administer these tests twice a week at home, with a gap of 3 to 4 days between each test. The tests provide a result in 30 minutes. The premise of this strategy from the government is that approximately one third of people who get Coronavirus prove to be asymptomatic and could pass on the virus to someone else and never know that this is happening. If the LFTs identify members of staff who have Covid-19 without knowing, they can isolate and prevent the spread of the virus to others.

If a member of our staff reports a positive Lateral Flow Test, they are required to provide evidence of this to the school, self-isolate immediately and book a PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test online, which is the test that is sent to a lab and takes longer to process.

In the event of a positive LFT result, all 'close contacts' of the member of staff are required to self-isolate until the outcome of the PCR test is known and beyond if the PCR test is positive too.

'Close contacts' are all those (child or member of staff) who have been within 2 metres of the person with a positive result for 15 minutes or more within the 48 hours preceding the positive test result. As you will appreciate, it is difficult for staff to maintain social distancing in the classroom at all times, due to a combination of the number of children we have in our classes and the need for staff to assist children with their learning.

If one of our staff receives a positive LFT result, all of their close contacts (including children) will be sent an alert text requesting that they self-isolate at home. A formal letter will be sent to those affected at the first opportunity during office hours. We will endeavour to provide as much notice of self-isolation as we can, but please be aware that the recommended time for staff to carry out the LFT themselves is in the morning before coming into work.

Those who have been required to self-isolate as the result of a staff member's positive LFT result, will be notified as soon as the PCR test result has been received. Depending on the result, the self-isolation may have to continue (if it is positive) or the people affected will be able to return to school (if it is negative).

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of their responsibility in helping to eradicate the spread of the virus, by continuing to restrict the interactions your child has outside of school. Please remember to adhere to 2m social distancing at all times whilst on the school site and refrain from stopping or meeting up outside the gate for a quick chat (as tempting as it is!).

We hope that this regular testing programme will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect everyone. Please continue to stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Allen
Headteacher