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5th March 2021

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Dear parents and carers,

As a school community we are continuing to work together to minimise transmission of COVID.

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others, so regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones.

As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other. From 1st March all **ADULTS** within households, childcare and support bubbles of primary and secondary-age school pupils and staff can have access to regular lateral flow testing.

We would ask families to seriously consider the twice weekly testing. The more families who participate, the quicker asymptomatic cases can be picked up and individuals self-isolate. Not only will this help reduce transmission but it will also ease pressures on the NHS and reduce the risk of further disruption to education. Ideally it would be good for families who choose to test at home, to commence this before 8th March and the children returning to school.

To find out more about lateral flow tests please use this link.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

How to get a rapid lateral flow test for members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils

From 1 March 2021, if you're an **ADULT** of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Get a test through your employer

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. To find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site, click this link <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Collect test kits so that you and your family can test at home

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point.

- Each pack contains 7 tests.
- Anyone 18 or over can collect.
- You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

To find your nearest home test kit collection point click this link <https://find-covid-19-rapid-testsites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

The closest site to Wragby, where you can collect tests, is **Lincoln Showground**.

Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods as this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

To order rapid lateral flow home test kits click this link <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result (at Lincoln Showground)
- follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.
- Inform school of the positive result.

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus, **but 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

I once again thank you for your support and for working with us.

We look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 8th March

Yours faithfully,



Mrs R Osgodby
Headteacher

