

## **Lateral Flow Testing September 2021 - FAQs**

**This information is in line with the Government guidelines at the time of publishing (27th August 2021); any revised guidance from the government may override the details below.**

### **Should my child take a lateral flow test if they have had Covid-19?**

If your child has had Covid-19 within the last 90 days, they are not required to take lateral flow tests. Please provide your child with a note to confirm this, indicating the date of the positive PCR test. They can show this note to exempt them from the in school testing.

### **I have not given consent for my child to be tested in school. What do they do while others are being tested?**

On the first day that your child is due in school they should go directly to the first lesson on their timetable. When students leave lessons for their second test, your child can remain in the classroom and continue working. We would suggest that you provide your child with a note to confirm that they will not be testing. They can show this note to exempt them from the in school testing. If your child is not taking part in home testing, and they are given a pack of home testing kits in error, please just return these to Student Services or dispose of the kit yourself. Whilst we will do all we can to avoid kits being sent home where they are not required, you will appreciate we are dealing with a large number of students and a very busy testing program at the start of term.

### **Why do the home testing kits differ from those used in school?**

We are not able to request specific types of testing kits - these are allocated to us by the DHSC. The home testing kits that we will be sending home with students at the start of September were delivered prior to the delivery for in school testing. The home testing kits currently require both throat and nasal swabbing, whereas in school testing, using Orient Gene kits, only requires nasal swabbing. We are advised by the Government that the home testing of students and staff in schools will be reviewed at the end of September 2021.

### **When will I receive the results of the lateral flow test taken in school?**

We aim to register the results of lateral flow tests taken in school as soon after the results are evident as possible, however, we are dealing with large volumes and this may delay the notifications. If your child tests positive, we will accommodate them in our isolation room and contact you immediately so that you can collect them and book a PCR test to confirm the result.

### **What should I do if my child tests positive on a lateral flow test, either at home or in school?**

You should book your child for a PCR test to confirm the result and they should isolate until either the PCR is returned as negative or for 10 days from the date of their test or first day of symptoms, whichever is the earliest. There is now no need for other close contacts who have been double vaccinated or children under the age of 18 years and 6 months to isolate, but if they develop symptoms then they should book a PCR and begin their own isolation process.

### **Should I test my child at home before their first day in school?**

If you have home testing kits and you are happy to test your child at home before their first day in school that adds another layer of protection for yourselves and the school community, in helping to reduce the risk of infection from Covid-19.