

Appendix Seven – Testing: Lateral Flow tests

Introduction

From January 2021 Lateral Flow tests are available for testing staff and pupils who are asymptomatic to help identify cases and reduce the risk of transmission.

Weekly Testing

Staff

All staff who have provided consent should be tested weekly or when they return to work if they were not in work in the previous week.

Any staff who do not participate in weekly testing should wear a face covering to protect others.

Staff should take their own swabs and should have access to a separate area where they can do this.

It is the member of staff's responsibility to ensure they are getting tested regularly.

Privacy notices are available for the testing process.

Pupils

Lateral flow testing may be rolled out to pupils, starting with key stage 4 and 5 where they/their parents have provided consent.

Staff will assist the pupil in doing the swab only if they are happy to do so

A face covering and visor should be worn if assisting a pupil to do their swab.

If the pupil is displaying any unwillingness to be swabbed this should not happen.

Daily testing

We may carry out daily contact testing of pupils, students and staff who are close contacts of a positive case. Those identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will be provided with daily testing for seven days.

If they test positive, they will have to go home to take a confirmatory PCR test and self-isolate.

If they test negative on a daily basis, they can continue to attend school without having to self-isolate.

The decision as to whether or not someone can have daily testing instead of isolating will depend on the circumstances of the close contact (how close that contact was). This decision will be made by the SLT.

Social Distancing Policy and Procedures – January 2021

Appendix Seven – Testing: Lateral Flow tests

Process

The government guidance should be followed to maximise the accuracy of the tests prevent contamination of the samples with the exception of the testing environment where an alternative process has been agreed with Public Health England. A mobile testing trolley can be used on the school site to minimise disruption to classes and increase the number of tests that can be completed.

Staff processing tests should wear full PPE:

- Face covering
- Apron
- Gloves
- Visor

Positive test result

Anyone who has a positive lateral flow test must go home and take a PCR test either through the keyworker scheme at Steppingly Hospital, a walk in/drive-through centre or a home test.

That person should not return to school unless they have a negative test or they have completed the 10 day isolation period.