

Tuesday 26<sup>h</sup> January 2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff**

Dear Member of Staff,

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, mass testing will allow schools to take further measures to help you and other staff members to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. The Government is now rolling out mass testing in key sectors across England; tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. While recommended, no member of staff is required to take part in this programme, your participation is entirely voluntary.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommend two LFD tests 3 to 4 days apart, or regular testing, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using a LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. **A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission** – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

### **[Testing at Our Lady of the Wayside](#)**

You will be able to take the tests every week from **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**. Staff attending school or nursery will be conducting these tests at home, twice a week and can collect tests from the Conference Room on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 or Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021** for staff who work at the end of the week. Please ensure you sign the register when you collect your tests and please do not take tests for colleagues.

## How the tests work

We are asking all Our Lady of the Wayside staff to conduct their tests on a **Sunday and a Wednesday evening by 7:00pm**. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. You will be given an 'Instructions for Use' leaflet when you collect your tests, please **do not** follow the instructions contained in your test, these instructions have been updated.

There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

## Reporting your test outcome

All test outcomes (positive, negative and void) must be reported.

1. **Report to NHS Test and Trace:** you must log the test result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Alternatively, you can report via telephone 0300 303 2713 – lines are open every day, 7:00am to 11Pm. You will receive a [text/email] notification of a positive or negative result from NHS Test & Trace.
2. **Report to Our Lady of the Wayside School:** You must also inform school by 8:00pm, at the latest - please report using this online form.

[Click here to report your test to school](#)

## Consent / Privacy

Please read Our Lady of the Wayside's privacy notice and the guidance on how to administer the test (see attached). If you choose to participate, you are committing to self-administer the test and to provide your results. You will be required to provide your test results (positive, negative or void/invalid) to NHS Test and Trace via the self-report gov.uk page and be to share your results with Our Lady of the Wayside School to support with local contact tracing.

If you are in agreement and you wish to participate in COVID-19 testing programme, please complete this online MS Form by **9:00am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February**. This is a voluntary programme and you are under no obligation to participate.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=.8XsNkcZBUCdDFgUlropG1SU2t85zuRKuTdK80ydBFhUNk9QSzRLMFZCOTc3RDNUOE9DSFZVUjk1Ry4u>

Staff who decline to participate can still attend school if not symptomatic.

Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or queries.

Please stay safe.

Mr Ben Taylor, Headteacher

