

Wednesday, 6 January 2021

Re: Lateral flow testing at Leytonstone School

Dear parents and carers,

Much has taken place since I last wrote to you. I apologise for what must seem like a constant barrage of school communications.

The school is now currently only open to vulnerable children and the children of key workers. All other pupils are learning from home. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that this may be the case until February half term in an attempt to halt the spread of Covid19.

Keeping our pupils learning**5th to 8th January**

Year 11 - Full curriculum of remote learning.

Years 7 to 10 – English, Science and Maths remote learning. Some project work for other subjects.

11th January onwards

All year groups – Full curriculum of remote learning.

As a school we do not believe that it is healthy for pupils to spend any more than **four hours** in front of their screens. We have adapted our remote learning lessons to reflect this.

The senior leadership team will be chasing up pupils who are absent from their remote learning lessons. Please encourage your child to complete the work that is being set.

Lateral flow testing

When our pupils return to school, it is highly likely that schools will still be required to carry out testing onsite in order to isolate asymptomatic cases of Covid19.

This testing is voluntary, but we encourage you to consent for your child to participate in this programme.

- a. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.
- b. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible).

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

The pupil will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear anything, please assume the test was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines (10 days). This does not apply to **household members** of the positive test – these people will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer for your child to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This school testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Consent

If you are happy to give your consent for your child to take part in lateral flow testing onsite, please complete the consent form here: <https://forms.gle/yyMs2u92bhyjwXqG7>

You may have further questions you would like to ask regarding onsite testing. If you do, we will be opening a Q&A forum on our website on Thursday 7th January. You will have an opportunity to post questions which will be answered by Monday 11th January.

Yours faithfully,

J McQuaid
Head Teacher