



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

30th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please see below the latest information regarding testing over the Christmas Holidays:

All staff and students should test over the holidays in line with national guidance. Testing all pupils will help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

If you would like your child to continue testing over the Christmas break, please send an email to LFT@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk by Monday 13th December, stating that you require more test kits, and we will ensure that you have enough home test kits to be able to do this.

The government also states:

We would like all secondary schools to prepare to test their pupils once on-site on return in January.

We are keen to ensure that our pupils are not delayed in returning to school in January and are therefore taking the decision not to offer onsite testing. This decision has been made in the hope that families of secondary-aged pupils will support the school by testing their child on Sunday 2nd January and Wednesday 5th January (prior to starting school on Thursday 6th January). At which point, twice weekly testing is encouraged to be continued.

Twice weekly testing by secondary aged pupils at home is crucial in discovering asymptomatic carriers and helping to prevent the spread of the virus.

Lonsdale School acknowledges that all testing is voluntary and there is no mandatory requirement to engage in this process. We are also aware that, for some pupils, testing is not appropriate and therefore, for these individuals, testing should not take place.

As always, all tests carried out need to be registered with the NHS (see website link found on page 15 in the information booklet). However, there is no requirement for logging results with the school.

If you require any support with conducting or registering your Lateral Flow Tests, please contact aperrett@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Andrew Perrett
Assistant Head

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www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk



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What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test (LFT) is positive?

Please inform the school on absence@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk. Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or within 2 days of the positive LFT test result). To book a test, call 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. When booking a PCR test, we would recommend choosing to visit a drive-through test site, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time, your child and any close contacts, who are an adult (over the age of 18 years and 6 months) and not double vaccinated, will need to isolate and await the result of the test. Those under the age of 18 and adults who have received their second vaccination can continue to work/go to school.

At the time of writing, if the PCR test returns a positive result, your child will need to isolate, along with any adults who are not double-vaccinated. Other siblings and double-vaccinated adults are encouraged to take a PCR test but can continue to attend school/work.

If the PCR test returns a negative result, all those who were having to isolate can return to school/work.

What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test is negative?

Pupils will be able to come to school and resume their activities as normal. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for any reason.

What if a close contact tests positive?

If this happens, NHS Test and Trace will be in contact and you will be informed through the NHS test and trace app if/when you need to isolate.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The Lateral Flow Test home testing kits are 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>.

If the result of the PCR test is negative but your child still has symptoms, they may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or stomach bug. Your child should, in these situations, stay at home until they feel well to prevent the passage of viral illnesses. If your child has had diarrhoea or vomiting, then please wait a further two days after they are feeling better before returning to school.

Please note that this guidance is only correct at the time of writing. Therefore, please familiarise yourselves with the most current guidance, which can be found on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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