

11th March 2021

Re: Transition to Home Testing (COVID-19)



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the transition from Lateral Flow testing in school to testing at home. As you are aware, around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other. To support this we started testing students in school using the lateral flow device tests. Testing will continue to be a vital part of the government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), supporting the roadmap set out by the Prime Minister. As restrictions are eased in England, starting with the return of schools we need to be sure that each COVID-19 case is found as quickly and as easily as possible. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to play their part to keep the virus under control while keeping students in school.

As laid out in the roadmap, secondary school students will now be **tested twice a week, receiving three initial tests at school before transitioning to twice weekly home testing**. Students aged 12 to 17 can do the swab themselves, supervised by an adult. Students aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult to ensure they are swabbing correctly. Guidance on how to complete the test is included in this link - [How to do a Covid-19 Self-Test](#)

Regular testing will mean more positive cases are found and prevented from entering school, helping to keep Bosworth Academy safe. Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or students being sent home due to an outbreak.

[POS-004 A guide to regular testing for parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges.pdf](#)

This information is available several [Languages](#)

Robust evaluations from PHE and the University of Oxford show that LFD tests are accurate, reliable and successfully identify those with coronavirus (COVID-19) who could pass on the virus without realising. The tests have extremely low rates of false positives. Tests taken at school, do not need a confirmatory PCR test (at a local test centre). This is because these tests are done in a controlled environment and trained staff read the results.

If a student received a test at school and it was positive then they and other members of their household must self-isolate. PCR testing is not advised if you have received a positive result from an LFD test at school. If a parent was to do this and it returned a negative result, the policy remains that the pupil or student, their close contacts, and other members of their household must still self-isolate.

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand.

Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.





We have been overwhelmed by the support of students who have attended appointments for their initial tests in school ensuring a smooth start to the process.

Home test kits are free of charge and will be provided by the school when the third test for that year group has been conducted, to be **given out during registration on Monday 15th March for students in Year 11, 12 and 13 and on either Tuesday 16th March or Wednesday 17th March for those in Years 7-10. Students will receive 2 boxes and a new set of instructions which should not be opened until students return home.** Please disregard the instructions contained within the box. Each box contains 3 tests.

Students/Parents should understand the testing process and have read [our privacy notice](#). Then, by conducting a home test, you are consenting to self-administer the test and provide their results to the NHS and Bosworth Academy. All participation in home testing is voluntary.

Once students have completed their home tests they will be able to log the test result online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and need to also, separately, inform Bosworth Academy of the test result via <http://bit.ly/BosworthLFT>. You will receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from NHS Test & Trace.

If you have any questions regarding testing please direct emails or calls to Louise Holdback - Covid-19 Coordinator, or Zena Aherne, or Charlotte Dench - Team Leaders at Bosworth Academy.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Brown
Headteacher

