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**THE MILTON  
KEYNES ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

22 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

### **Covid-19 Self Testing Kits**

We have been very pleased to welcome our students back into school and their participation in the lateral flow testing has been excellent; we are happy to report that we have now conducted over 1500 tests with no positive results so far and we expect that all in school testing will be complete by the middle of next week.

Students can then move to rapid Covid-19 testing at home and we will be sending home Covid-19 testing kits next week. Students should test twice weekly, 3 - 4 days apart, in the morning before school if possible, and, if not, the evening before. This should continue throughout the Easter holidays.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Please find a link [here](#) to an instructional video which explains how to use the self-testing kits.

### **Reporting results**

The results of the home testing must be reported immediately, even if the result is negative or void. This can be done at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

It is also important to share the result with the school using the [school lateral flow test link](#).

If the result is positive, please advise the school by emailing [covidalert@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk](mailto:covidalert@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk) and then book a PCR test to confirm the test result. Once you have the result, again, please notify us.

### **Taking part**

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend MKA whether they take part in testing or not.



I am strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme.

If you have any questions or concerns about home testing, please contact us on [info@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk)

Thank you for your support with the testing in school and the continuation of testing at home – helping to keep our school and local community safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Seddon'.

**Fiona Seddon**  
Principal



## **Testing Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What type of tests will be used?**

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

### **Are LFD tests accurate?**

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as wearing face coverings and social distancing.

### **How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?**

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test



### **How will personal information and test results be shared?**

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student.

They will need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) the following information:

- child's name
- child's test result
- the reference number on the Test Kit

They will also need to tell the school their test result.

Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When someone reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC. DHSC may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research COVID-19 and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the privacy notice attached to our previous letter.

### **What if a child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?**

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to their having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they are having a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.