

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

30 September 2021



Dear Families

Ref: Covid-19 home testing

As we complete Week 5 of Term 1, we continue to monitor very closely the spread of Covid-19 in the school community. Sadly, we have had an increase in the number of cases and so, we need to use Public Health England advice and encourage regular (twice weekly) lateral flow testing at home. This is to help catch any asymptomatic infections early and minimise the risk of closure of school (in part of full).

We are sending home with all students, the COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests' with an expectation that each test kit with 7 tests should be used twice a week and so should last for approximately 3 weeks. This will be sufficient for the remainder of this term.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

What if a pupil tests positive?

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 they have not yet been double-vaccinated. Please email: covid@abbotsleaschool.co.uk to advise us if the positive test result occurs.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. You do not need to email us the results if they are negative.

What if my child develops 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>.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher