



MEADGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: Mr. J. J. Figg

Monday 1st March, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have seen in the media, or via recent Government announcements that, as schools return from 8th March testing via lateral flow devices will be available, for free, to whole families and households with primary school age children, including childcare and support bubbles, twice weekly, from home. **This is only for adults without symptoms.**

As the Government ease restrictions, starting with the return of schools, it is important that COVID-19 cases are found as quickly and as easily as possible. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to play their part to keep the virus under control and help to break chains of transmission, while keeping children in school. Testing is an additional tool, working alongside other protective measures including social distancing, handwashing and wearing a face covering around the site. Staff in our school are already undertaking bi-weekly testing.

About a third of individuals with coronavirus show no symptoms and could spread it unknowingly. Targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools, helping to keep educational settings safe.

Primary school children will not be regularly asymptotically tested due to low levels of transmission between younger aged children but will continue to need to come forward for tests if they develop symptoms.

Rapid testing for households 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 a class being sent home due to an outbreak.

All households with primary age children, and their childcare and support bubbles, will be encouraged to take part as children return to school, with tests available for adults to collect from 1st March. **A secondary PCR test will be required for positive lateral flow tests which are taken at home, either through at home PCR testing or at a local PCR testing site.**

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a PCR test if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result. Do not use the rapid lateral flow testing service as this is **only for people without symptoms**.

From 1 March 2021, if you are an asymptomatic member of a household, childcare or support bubble of staff or a pupil, you can get a twice-weekly test. Please note that **schools will not be issuing test kits to families**.

How to get a rapid lateral flow test

- **Through your employer if they offer testing to employees.**

Contact your employer to find out if they are offering this.

- **At a local rapid lateral flow test site.**

Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. Find your nearest Rapid flow test centre here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

- **By collecting a home test kit from a test site.**

You can collect up to 4 home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains 7 tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go. The online service to find your nearest home test kit collection point will be available shortly.

- **By ordering a home test kit online**

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. The online service will be available shortly.

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart) and report every result to NHS Test and Trace, on the same day you take the test, either by calling 119 or going online to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If anyone tests positive, or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

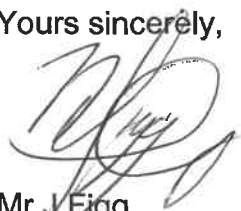
- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the stay at home guidance

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all coronavirus

advice, including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing a face covering where recommended.

This system is not mandatory but we would encourage families to engage so that we are able to continue keeping our school community as safe as possible and the children in school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Figg', written over a faint circular stamp.

Mr J Figg
Executive Headteacher