

Ealing Council
Perceval House
14-16 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2HL

Thursday 16 December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Re: Public Health advice on testing before returning to school

Further to my letter dated the 6 December, I would like to provide more detailed advice about testing in relation to the return to school after the Christmas holidays to keep your school community as safe as possible.

We are advising that primary school households undertake a lateral flow test prior to the return to school either the night before or the morning of the first day of term. Lateral flow tests (LFTs) are rapid tests used by people who don't have symptoms and hence they help to identify when someone is infectious and may pass Covid-19 on without realising it. An LFT is a great way to ensure you are keeping yourself and others safe as 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 show no symptoms. This means we can detect cases earlier and limit the transmission of Covid-19 in the school community.

Please be reassured that for most people, especially children, coronavirus (Covid-19) will be a mild illness. The current main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

Lateral flow tests can be ordered online via the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> and tests can also be collected from local pharmacies <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk> and local libraries [How to get a test if you are not displaying symptoms](#)

This is in addition to the Department for Education guidance and is being recommended to keep the school community safe. It is up to parents to make individual family decisions on whether to implement this advice, but I strongly encourage it. If a child or family member tests positive on a LFT, they should take a PCR test and self-isolate while awaiting the result. They should not attend school. Please note that anyone who has had a positive PCR result within the last 90 days should not get a further PCR test unless they have developed symptoms.

Thank you for all your support as we continue to work to keep Ealing safe, and we wish you all the best for a safe and happy festive period.

Kind regards,

Anna Bryden, Director of Public Health, Ealing Council

