



Dear Parent/Carer

19th March 2021

COVID-19 self-testing in the home

We are nearly at the end of our programme of on-site Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing of students. Our processes have worked really well. We know that our system has been effective over a number of weeks as our testing has unearthed a very small number of high viral loads and we have been able to take the appropriate measures to ensure optimal safety. We are now beginning our transition over to home testing for students.

For those students who have undertaken on-site LFD testing, home kits, initially consisting of two boxes of 3 or one box of 7, will be issued to them at the time of their 3rd and final on-site test as follows:

Year 10	Friday 19 th March
Year 11	Monday 22 nd March
Year 7	Tuesday 23 rd March
Year 8	Wednesday 24 th March
Year 9	Thursday 25 th March

If your daughter did not take part in onsite testing but wishes to undertake home testing, please could parents kindly email k.adams@davisonhigh.school with their child's full name, year group and colour family to start using the home testing service, we will then arrange for your daughter to receive her testing kits as soon as possible.

Twice-weekly home testing should start after your daughter's final LFD test in school. Tests should be undertaken on Sunday and Wednesday evenings each week. You will need to report your result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. In addition to this, you will also need to report any positive test results to us by email at the earliest opportunity covid19@davisonhigh.school

Additional test kits will be provided to your daughter prior to the Easter Break to allow you to continue testing during the holiday period and, in order to ensure that you have sufficient tests available to undertake a test on the evening of Sunday 18th April, prior to your daughter's return to school following the Easter Break.

When testing at home, parents/carers of students aged 12-17 need to supervise the testing process. Students under 12 need their parents/carers to undertake the swabbing process for them. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit but you can also access this [YouTube video](#) clip on how to carry out the test.

It is important that the tests supplied to each student are used only by the student and are not used by anyone else. However, families can obtain home test kits for other people living in the same household and their bubble via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (for example, in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommends two LFD tests 3 to 5 days apart (or 3 to 4 days for home testing), to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If your child tests positive using an LFD, it is likely that they are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

Testing is voluntary and students who decline to participate can still attend school if they are not symptomatic. If your daughter begins to show symptoms, she should arrange to be tested and follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation. Information on how to arrange a coronavirus test is available here <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you have any specific questions about the testing process please contact k.adams@davisonhigh.school

Thank you for your support in continuing to keep the Davison community safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Keating', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Keating
Headteacher