



Dear Parents / Carers,

Lateral Flow Testing Update – Monday 15th March 2021

Thank you for your support with our ongoing, on-site Lateral Flow Testing process, which has run incredibly smoothly over the past few weeks, thanks to excellent planning and great school community collaboration. Our children have been exceptional in how maturely they have embraced this process and we are very proud of them!

As we near the end of the second round of testing in school, it is now time to prepare for the home testing phase, the details of which are outlined below:

1. At or after your child's third test they will be issued with a uniquely numbered home testing kit, containing either three or seven test kits per box. There is no variation in the type of kit, they just get sent to us in different quantities. Students will receive enough kits for the remainder of this half term and to undertake over the Easter Holiday. This kit number will be recorded by the school for your child, as expected by the students Department for Education and shouldn't be used by anyone other than the student they are registered to.
2. Following 3 tests in school, with supervision and support, the government now requires home tests to be carried out and registered, twice a week, for each student with consent. *It is important to note that further written consent or completion of the portal is not required by school for home testing but instead consent is simply given by the action of completing the test at home.*
3. The test kits are identical to those used in school, which your child should now be very familiar with and there are clear instructions provided to show you how to process and dispose of the swab. *Whilst there is an instruction manual inside all kit boxes the DfE have since updated their guidance, in particular with regard to actions following an invalid result. Your child will be provided with the updated instruction booklet **alongside** their test kit(s) and it is this guidance that should be followed, **NOT** that in the leaflet inside the box.*

Students aged 11 should be tested by an adult. Those aged 12 – 17 should self-test, but may be supported by an adult if needed, and report with adult supervision. Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed.

It is recommended by the DfE that testing is carried out in the morning, prior to your child attending school on that day.

4. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace at www.gov.uk/report-covid-result and logged with school at www.garibaldischool.co.uk/home-test-result Please note that following a POSITIVE test result, school should be contacted immediately on 01623 464220 to support our contact tracing within school and our obligation to work with NHS test and trace.
5. Students with a positive LFD tests result will need to self- isolate in line with 'stay at home' guidance. They will also need to arrange a PCR test to confirm the result of the home test. Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school.
6. In the unlikely event your child receives an 'invalid' result, they should test again straight away. If the second test is also 'invalid', your child should arrange for a PCR test.

The LFD testing process has proven very successful in securing our safe return to school and we are grateful for your continued support as you now take on this responsibility at home. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions about this process and thank you in advance for following the steps outlined above carefully and helping us safely keep schools open moving forward.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Aldred

Head of School