



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to further clarify the situation regarding COVID-19 symptoms and testing. As the situation with COVID-19 changes quickly and government guidance changes, we understand that some information can be confusing for parents. I have contacted the Department for Education this morning to ensure that we, as a school, are providing you with the correct information and they have clarified that we *are*. Public Health Lincolnshire have also written to schools this morning asking us to inform parents of the following information:

- It is extremely important to be aware that testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) is only appropriate for people who are **not** symptomatic.
- **Anyone who has any of the COVID-19 symptoms should immediately self-isolate, along with their household, and arrange a Polymerase Chain Reaction test (PCR) at a testing site.** This is a legal requirement; in no circumstances should an LFD test be used instead of booking a PCR test; as these tests do not have the required sensitivity for symptomatic testing and are likely to produce false-negative results. This could result in children & staff members attending school when they are infectious.
- It should also be noted that LFD tests are **not** approved for use for primary-age children, and parents of primary school children should not administer LFD tests to these children in any circumstances.
- It is important that all schools do not allow staff or children to attend school when they are symptomatic just because they have a negative LFD test result. Anyone symptomatic should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test. Very simply, **symptoms = PCR test**; only people without symptoms should be using LFD tests.



## Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing

Parents of children at Nursery and Primary School can order LFD test kits and self-test at home. These are not to be used to test Nursery and Primary School children: they are for the asymptomatic testing of adults or Secondary School children. These should be used twice a week to test adults and secondary school children who are not displaying **any** symptoms of COVID-19. LFD tests are used to help find the 1 in 3 positive cases in the community where adults and secondary age pupils are displaying no symptoms. **Primary and Nursery age pupils should not be tested with LFD tests.**

## Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test

If your child or anyone in your household displays symptoms of COVID-19 you must all self-isolate and book a PCR test by calling 119 or booking the test on the government website. **You must not use an LFD test if you or your child are displaying symptoms.**

## Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child or anyone in your household or support bubble has any of these symptoms, you must all self-isolate, book a PCR test and contact school immediately (**do not use an LFD home self-test**). **Please do not send your child to school until you have the results of the PCR test with a negative confirmation.**

As always, we are here to help and support your through this pandemic. If you have any questions or require any advice, please do not hesitate to contact us via [enquiries@grimoldby.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@grimoldby.lincs.sch.uk) or telephone 01507 327393. It is really important we continue to work together and follow the national guidelines to keep our community as safe as possible.

Yours faithfully

Antonia Brooks

Headteacher