

Ysgol Harri Tudur Henry Tudor School

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow Dysgwyr Heddiw, Arweinwyr Yfory

13th May 2021

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

NHS Test, Trace, Protect: COVID-19 Rapid Lateral Flow Self-Test for Pupils/Students – Inclusion of Years 7, 8 and 9

Background

1. The Welsh Government has recently announced that a free and voluntary programme of asymptomatic COVID-19 testing will be available in education and childcare settings across Wales. This offer is being expanded to include Years 7, 8 and 9; Years 10-13 have already been given the opportunity to conduct self-testing. Along with the primary infection control measures we have implemented, such as social distancing, hand hygiene, wearing of face coverings and good ventilation, testing will help provide additional reassurance to the wider school community.
2. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Part of controlling the spread of the virus requires identifying those infectious individuals who aren't showing any symptoms and asking them to self-isolate. Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. The speed and convenience of LFTs 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.
3. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (e.g. in the early stages of infection). This is why it is recommended that two LFTs are taken 3 to 4 days apart. For our school we ask that tests are conducted on a Sunday and a Wednesday.
4. If you test positive using a LFT, it is likely that you are infectious and you must self-isolate immediately and book and take a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within 24 hours of your positive LFT result. Contact tracing will be triggered following a positive LFT and your close contacts will be required to self-isolate until you receive your PCR test result; if the PCR test result is positive you and your close contacts will have to continue to self-isolate.



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5. A negative LFT result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFTs are an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.
6. **Voluntary Status.** Conducting the test is voluntary; your child will not be excluded from coming to school if the LFT is not conducted. It is also not a condition of coming on to the school campus or accessing learning/care.
7. **Why are we testing?** It is important to highlight that the purposes of the testing policy in education and childcare in Wales is to complement the primary control measures (such as social distancing and face coverings) that have already been put in place to enable face to face learning/care to continue.

How the tests work

8. **Opting In.** NHS advice is to seek consent through **Opting In to this programme**. As such, if you wish your child (ren) to be included in this programme please complete the online consent form. The link to this will be emailed to you. You do not need to let us know if you do not wish your children to take part. If you change your mind please let us know (via your Key Stage Leader or Reception).
9. **Initial LFT kit issue.** LFT kits will be issued to Years 7, 8 and 9 during the last lesson of the school day on Friday 28 May. If you wish to collect your child's test kit from school instead please email **reception@yht.wales** or telephone **01646 682461** and arrange to collect from Reception during school weekday hours. Each LFT pack contains 3 individual tests.
10. **Testing days.** Our school testing days are **Sunday and Wednesday**; the Wednesday test should be completed and the result known **before your child comes to school**. LFTs do not require laboratory processing and can provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit; a video on testing is also be available on the school web page.
11. **Starting home testing.** Home testing should commence at the end of half term and before the return to school. **The first test day is therefore Sunday 6 June (noting school is back in on Tuesday 8 June) and the second test should be conducted on Wednesday 9 June. To align with other year groups a second test pack will be issued on Tuesday 8 June.** We will continue to issue replacement kits thereafter on a regular basis.
12. **Reporting test results.** Once the test has been conducted you must log the result online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. The first result will take around 5 minutes; if you set up an account with the NHS this process will be quicker thereafter. If the test is Positive the result must be passed to the school as soon as possible; please email **reception@yht.wales** or telephone **01646 682461**.

13. **Consent/Privacy.** All individuals wishing to take part should familiarise themselves with the testing process (given in the booklet handed out with the LFT packs and shown on the web site) and privacy notice (on the web site). Choosing to participate involves you committing to self-administer the test at home and to provide results for all tests (Negative, Positive and Void) to the NHS and Positive only to school. Those who choose not to participate should still attend school as long as they are not displaying symptoms.

14. **Summary.** The LFT programme is another tool to combat Covid-19; it compliments all current Covid-19 measures being adopted in school (including regular hand washing/sanitising, wearing of face masks, ensuring classrooms and offices are well ventilated, use of a one way system). The pupil LFT programme runs in conjunction with a similar programme for school staff. I strongly encourage all to take the tests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Kite', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs Kite
Headteacher