

CBT/LD

31 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

**Re: Return to School Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing – September 2021**

Ahead of students returning to school after the summer break, we have been working through the new Government guidance for September:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

Students will potentially have mixed with lots of other people during the summer holidays, so to ensure a healthy and safe return to school, **all secondary school students should receive two on-site lateral flow device (LFD) tests on their return in the autumn term.** Staff will also undertake regular testing. The two LFD tests will take place on:

- Friday 3 September After your appointment with your child's Form Tutor
- Monday 6 September Students will be brought to testing pods by class teachers

You will be given a pre-populated consent form from your child's Form Tutor on Parent/Tutor Day, which will be used for both LFD tests. Please also see enclosed a privacy notice about the testing programme. Students will undertake the test themselves (nasal swab only), supervised by school staff. Anyone with a positive LFD test will need to self-isolate and have a confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, also self-isolating until they receive their PCR test result.

Anyone not able to attend the Parent/Tutor Day on Friday 3 September will have the consent form sent to them. Any student who is not able to attend on the Friday should undertake a home LFD test, and report their result to us by email: [testresults@energycoastutc.co.uk](mailto:testresults@energycoastutc.co.uk). If you do not have home LFD testing kits, they are available from your local pharmacy.

As I'm sure you will be aware, from Monday 16 August, children under the age of 18 years old and those who are fully vaccinated (14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS) will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test result (obtained through either a PCR or LFD test). As previously, we would request that students do not attend school should they be showing any symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>). We can also confirm that self-isolating students will still have access to robust and comprehensive remote learning opportunities while self-isolating.

The public health advice remains that if someone has tested positive with a PCR test, they should not be tested using either PCR or rapid lateral flow tests for 90 days, unless they develop new symptoms during this time – in which case they should be retested immediately using PCR. This 90-day period is from the initial onset of symptoms or, if asymptomatic when tested, their positive test result.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. As such, we will be continuing to encourage good hygiene including regular hand-washing, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Please do contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you on Friday.

Yours sincerely



Cherry Tingle  
Principal