

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have heard in the media about Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing, and how this is being used to identify asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in certain workplaces, such as schools and care homes. As we are offering regular, twice weekly LFD testing to all of our school staff, we feel that it is important to explain in a little detail how the process will work in Monmouthshire's schools.

LFD testing can be used quite successfully to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID in the community, where those cases are particularly infectious. It is less successful at detecting those with a lower level of infection, but those with a low level of infection are far less likely to pass the infection on to close contacts.

In Monmouthshire schools, to try to minimise any further disruption within our classrooms, all staff that are happy to participate in LFD testing will be provided with the necessary equipment. Tests will be performed by staff members at home on a Sunday evening (at around 7pm), and then later in the week on a Wednesday evening (at around 6pm). This regime has been proposed to provide minimum disruption to school staff and pupils.

How does the system work?

Any staff members taking part in the testing will perform a test at home, at around 7pm on each Sunday evening. If the test indicates a positive result, the headteacher will be informed, and the staff member will arrange for a further test (PCR) to be conducted at a test centre, to confirm the result. By completing a test on a Sunday at 7pm, we will not have to isolate any class bubbles if the test indicates a positive result.

If a LFD test indicates a positive result on a Wednesday evening, then we will need to isolate all of the pupils and staff identified as close contacts, and so you may receive a communication advising you that your child is required to isolate following a positive LFD result. All close contacts will then need to remain in isolation until the results of the follow-up PCR test are available:

**Positive follow-up test result** will require all close contacts identified to remain in isolation for a full 10 days. We will send you a communication to update you and advise of the isolation dates applicable.

Negative follow-up test result will allow us to advise you that your child can return to school as normal.

Further guidance on LFD testing can be found here:  
<https://gov.wales/lateral-flow-testing-people-without-symptoms>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W McLean', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Will McLean**  
**Chief Officer – Children and Young People**