

T: (01495) 355006

E: Lynn.Phillips@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Our Ref./Ein Cyf. LP/KE/

Your Ref./Eich Cyf.

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Lynn Phillips

Date:/ Dyddiad: 5th March 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

On Friday 5, February the Education Minister for Wales announced that regular, twice weekly, Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) will be offered to all staff in all registered childcare settings including Flying Start settings, schools and further education settings when they return after the February half term. The aim of introducing this rapid testing is to ensure that schools identify possible asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible, minimise the opportunity for onward transmission and keep schools as safe as we can.

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.

All Blaenau Gwent schools will offer regular twice weekly testing to all staff. 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 (after 6pm), and then later in the week on a Wednesday evening (after 6pm). This regime has been proposed to provide minimum disruption to school staff and pupils.

How does the system work?

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 after 6pm, schools will not have to isolate any class bubbles if the test indicates a positive result.

However, if a positive result is received on a Wednesday any pupil/staff who have been identified as a contact will receive a communication advising that they are 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:

Cont'd...



The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfathrebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.



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

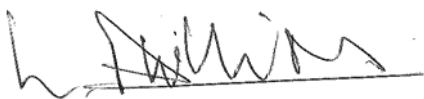
If a follow-up test result indicates a negative result those identified as contacts will receive a notification that they can return to school as normal.

Further guidance on LFD testing can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/lateral-flow-testing-people-without-symptoms>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Lynn Phillips
Corporate Director of Education /
Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg