



12th March 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Re: Home Testing for all students from 15th March 2021

From the 15th March, after the third school test is carried out, your child will bring home their 'home rapid testing kit'. The kit pack is for your child only and must not be used to test other family/household members. The Government (GOV.UK) has released information for households to receive/collect their own lateral flow home test kits-you can find out further information regarding this :- [HERE](#)

The student home kit pack contains the simple swab tests using a lateral flow device test (LFD/LFT), and it takes around 30 minutes to find out if your child has the virus.

The test detects viral proteins that are present when someone has Covid-19. Research from Public Health England and Oxford University shows that they pick up the vast majority of people in the most infectious stage of the disease. With up to 1 in 3 people who have the virus showing no symptoms- they could be spreading it without knowing.

Testing should take place twice a week, every 3-5 days. The first home test should take place 3-5 days **after** their last school test. You must record your result (Negative, Void or Positive) by either calling 119 or on-line: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

If the result of the lateral flow device is **negative**, your child can continue coming to school. If the result of the lateral flow device is **positive**, then your child and your whole household should isolate immediately. You need to inform the school – 01424 439888 or;

Attendance Yr 7&8 – l.barham@arkalexandra.org

Attendance Yr 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 – m.anderson@arkalexandra.org

Please ensure you contact NHS 119 regarding your positive result and ask for a confirmatory PCR test and follow the latest government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

If a PCR test returns as negative then your child can return to school immediately- please inform the school.

If a PCR test returns as positive then your child and household must continue to isolate for 10 days- please inform the school.

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe

For further information and instruction guidance in home rapid testing, please see the following link on the school website; <https://arkalexandra.org/faq#selftest>

Scroll down to the ‘How to perform the COVID-19 self test’

- An introduction on Rapid self-testing for COVID-19 (pdf document)
- Covid-19 Self-Test Instruction for Use(IFU) Guide (pdf document)
- How to Do a Rapid COVID-19 Self-Test (pdf document)
- How to Self-Test Video with Dr Amir Khan (YouTube)

Your child must not come to school if they have symptoms;

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- *a new continuous cough*
- *a high temperature*
- *a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, arrange to have a PCR test if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a home self-sampling kit, a test site appointment or a test result. Do not use the rapid lateral flow testing service as this is only for people without symptoms.

[Order a test for people with symptoms](#) online or call 119.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us; info@arkalexandra.org.

Regards,



Liam Collins
Principal