



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

25th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Lincolnshire Public Health Team COVID Update to Schools

Following the wider return of pupils to school alongside the roll out of Lateral Flow tests for secondary aged pupils and parents of school aged children we have received the following update from the Lincolnshire Public Health Team.

We are aware that the recent expansion of home-testing for COVID-19 may be causing some confusion.

*It is extremely important to be aware that testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) is only appropriate for people who are **not** symptomatic.*

Anyone who has any of the COVID-19 symptoms (fever, persistent cough, change in the sense of taste or smell) should immediately self-isolate, along with their household, and arrange a Polymerase Chain Reaction test (PCR) at a testing site. This is a legal requirement; in no circumstances should an LFD test be used instead of booking a PCR test; as these tests do not have the required sensitivity for symptomatic testing and are likely to produce false-negative results. This could result in children and staff members attending school when they are infectious.

It should also be noted that LFD tests are not approved for use for primary-age children, and parents of primary school children should not administer LFD tests to these children in any circumstances.

*It is important that all schools do not allow staff or children to attend school when they are symptomatic because they have a negative LFD test result. Anyone symptomatic should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test. Very simply, **symptoms = PCR test**; only people without symptoms should be using LFD tests.*

I am aware that in recent weeks we have advised PCR testing in a number of cases where parents have used LFD tests in the first instance or where symptoms were evident and wanted to assure you that all actions are in line with the current guidance provided to schools. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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