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Rapid Lateral Flow Tests for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Dear parents and carers,

We have received this guidance and asked to share it with our school community. About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online
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The local authority have confirmed that families would be able to order tests online for delivery through the post through this link (although this service may get exhausted quickly and is recommended for those who are unable to get tests through other methods), or visit either of the two test site in Aylesbury identified in this link. The two Aylesbury sites are Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station HP18 0PE and Buckinghamshire Council, The Gatehouse Overflow Car Park HP198FF. We understand that both sites are open between 1pm and 7pm each day. You can collect two packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains seven tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect and you can check online if the location is busy before you go.

If you get a positive result using a lateral flow test, you and your close contacts should self-isolate and you should arrange to get a confirmatory gold standard 'PCR' by calling 119 or using the national test and trace booking site. Even if you get a non-positive test, you should continue to strictly follow COVID-safe ways of living and working (2-m social distancing, wearing a face covering over your nose and mouth, regular thorough hand washing and, as appropriate, the use of personal protective equipment). This is because you might still become infectious.

We hope this information will help you; our staff have been using twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests for several weeks and they do provide another layer of protection.

With best wishes

Mrs C Colmer
Headteacher