

14 December 2021



Orchard Mead Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Executive Principal: Mr M Oldman

Re: Changes to Later Flow Device Testing

As you may be aware, the government has announced that from Tuesday 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#). Results should also be shared with Orchard Mead Academy by emailing them to proof@orchard-tmet.uk

If staff or students test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, staff and students should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

All staff and students can access to a box of 7 LFD tests via our school. These are available to collect from the Library.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

We ask that staff and students to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing, in order to help stop the spread of coronavirus.



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Registered Office: The Mead Educational Trust, The Mead Centre, 343 Gipsy Lane, Leicester, LE4 9DD

A reminder to please read the letter sent out on Thursday 9th December (available on ClassCharts) regarding the arrangements for starting back on Tuesday 4th January. It is important to complete the online form to confirm whether or not your child will be coming into school for their scheduled on-site lateral flow device test. Testing is voluntary however we encourage all students to participate in order to help us stop the spread of coronavirus.

To confirm, on Tuesday 4th January the school will not run its normal timetable. Students will be asked to come into school to have a lateral flow test. After this test, students will need to return home and complete online learning. Testing will take place in our Sports Hall, where have a trained team to administer and process the lateral flow tests. The timetable for the day is:

- 9am = 11o
- 9.30 = 11m
- 10.00 = 10o
- 10.30 = 10m
- 11.15 = 9o
- 11.45 = 9m
- 12.45 = 8o
- 13.15 = 8m
- 13.45 = 7o
- 14.15 = 7m
- 14.45 = Grove

For those who have consented, all students testing negative will be able to return to school on Wednesday 5th January along with the rest of the school community. Those who test positive will need to arrange a PCR test and isolate if the test result is again positive. If the PCR test result is negative but your child still has symptoms, they may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or a stomach bug. They should stay at home until they feel well and for at least 2 more days if you have had diarrhoea or vomiting. Seek medical attention if you are concerned about your child's symptoms.

Consent

We ask all parents to complete the following online form as receipt of this letter, and to confirm whether or not consent is given for their child to participate in on-site testing. We will also use previous consent information if no update is given.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dwVkJUaEh40yLyFu5DKutdZ7zY5xDEPVCtBauMAiZsk5UOFdaOFhCSkNIU1IHUQINWENHWUdCRENJRC4u>

If you have any questions regarding testing, please see the frequently asked questions document included with this letter. You can also contact Miss Rachel Hill, one of our in-school Covid Coordinators (rhill@orchard-tmet.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Mark Oldman
Executive Principal