Lateral Flow Device Testing Policy

Lateral flow device (LFD) testing is a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

**Why are the Lateral Flow Device tests being offered?**

Testing will help to identify positive cases, particularly those who may have the virus and do not have symptoms. This is important as up to one in three people who have the virus have it asymptomatically and show no symptoms. This means people could be spreading the disease unknowingly.

By providing staff with home testing kits, we will be able to provide staff and parents with the assurance that positive cases will be identified more quickly which will break the chains of transmissions.

Lateral testing is not compulsory; however, it will provide all parties with a more secure and safe environment.

NB: The tests provided by pre-school MUST NOT be used by anyone other than the person they are issued to.

Lateral flow tests MUST NOT be used on children under 11 years old.

Lateral flow testing MUST NOT be used when symptoms are present. Lateral flow testing is only for asymptomatic testing.

Pre-school will not accept lateral flow testing results as confirmation that an individual is negative when symptoms are present. A PCR test must be sought and/or medical advice sought.

**What is a Lateral Flow Device test?**

The test kit is a hand-held device with an absorbent pad at one end and a reading window at the other. Inside the device is a strip of test paper that changes colour in the presence of COVID-19 proteins (antigens).

Lateral flow tests are practical, easy to interpret and can be used in a wide range of settings. This makes them ideal for widespread use in the community.

**How will this work?**

Staff will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week, on a Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. The test will give a result in around 30 minutes.

Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. You cannot report a result after more than 24 hours.

Staff MUST ALSO share their result with us to help with contact tracing. Please send your result to the Whatsapp Business page as soon as you have a result.

Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend pre-school.

If you have a positive result you must self-isolate and seek a Covid test straight away.

* You will need to register your test kit online
* Take a swab sample
* Read your results on the test device
* Report your results to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
* Message the results to the Whatsapp Business group.
* If you receive an Invalid result, you will need to take another test and report both.
* Each staff member will be given a box of kits with their unique lot number. Please ensure you use the same box for each of your tests.

Instructions will be included in your test kits. Step by step guides in different formats are also available <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/instructions-for-covid-19-self-test>

### What if I have symptoms of COVID?

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Those with symptoms must either order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

**What if I have previously had a positive COVID test result?**

A staff member who tested positive should recommence home testing 90 days after their positive test was taken.

While testing is voluntary, it is recommended that all staff participate in the testing programme because it is so important that we are able to break chains of transmission. It will assist in, and add to, our measures in line with our duty of care to both Staff and children in reducing the risk to both groups. Lateral Flow Device testing will support the smooth running of the pre-school and minimise closure.

Remember: Rapid Flow Tests are only for people **without** symptoms, if you have symptoms you must isolate and arrange a PCR test immediately.

Adopted on behalf of St Michael’s Pre-school

Name of chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_