



26th January 2022

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Dear Parents/Guardians

Face Coverings in School / LFD Test Kits Update from Solihull Public Health

Face Coverings

Following the announcement of the removal of Plan B measures, face coverings are no longer recommended in school from 27th January 2022. This means that the students will not be required to wear a face covering indoors. We will, of course, support any staff and students who wish to continue to wear face coverings, particularly as there continues to be positive cases of Covid in our school.

Solihull Public Health will continue to advise us in the event of outbreaks; at Arden we record all Covid related absences and this enables us to identify outbreaks/clusters of the infection. The Public Health teams are able to recommend the use of face coverings in communal areas as a measure in the event there are high rates of transmission. Any re-introduction of face coverings will be subject to routine review and removed at the earliest opportunity.

Please also see the following information that Solihull Public Health have asked us to share with you:

LFD Test Kits

Despite some national supply issues we do have lateral flow device (LFD) tests readily available in Solihull. There are a few options –

- *Testing hubs providing on-site LFD testing*
- *Testing hubs providing LFD home testing kits*
- *Pharmacies providing LFD home testing kits*
- *Online ordering of LFD home testing kits*

*Individuals that **do not have** COVID symptoms can pop into either of the Solihull Community Testing Hubs (Mell Square and Chelmsley Wood) **to take a test onsite**, or visit the mobile testing unit. For the hub opening times and mobile unit schedule please check the Council's main COVID testing page. (Please note if the outside temperature drops below 5° Celsius it usually means the Community Mobile Testing Unit will be unable to carry out lateral flow testing). Results from tests taken at a testing hub are sent via email or phone and should be received within half an hour.*



Individuals are also able to pick up packs of COVID rapid lateral flow tests from local participating pharmacy. They need a collect code to do this, which they get online here or by calling 119. They'll need to get a new collect code for each collection.

Individuals can Order coronavirus rapid lateral flow tests online and it is advised to do so as early as possible (before 10am), due to stock availability being higher at this time of day.

Please note secondary aged students should continue to receive test kits via their school.

Why test?

Taking LFD tests are an extremely important way to protect family, friends and others from the virus and ensure that people who do not have symptoms are aware that they are infectious and need to isolate. This is extremely important to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19.

Covid-19 Vaccination

Vaccine is the best step you can take to protect yourself and your family from Covid-19. Over 85% of very severely ill people in hospital are not fully vaccinated. Find out how you can access a vaccine at <https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/>

Kind regards



Mr Warwood
Associate Headteacher