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Testing and contact tracing in schools and colleges over the Easter holidays

Wednesday 31st March 2021

Dear parents,

The government have asked schools to continue with the contact tracing over the Easter holidays for all our pupils.

Contact Tracing:

Parents **must inform the school** (by emailing office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk) of a positive case of COVID-19 **if their child develops symptoms within 2 days of last being in school, or they have tested positive with a lateral flow device (LFD) test* within 2 days of last being in school.** The school must then assist the NHS in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst at school.

**If you have a positive LFD test result, you must then book a confirmatory PCR test at a test centre.*

Please note: If pupils test positive for COVID-19 (or their symptoms develop) during the holidays **more than 2 days after last being in school, then you only need to inform us** if they will still be self-isolating when we return to school on Monday 19th April. Similarly, if pupils are required by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case outside school during the holidays, you only need to inform us about this on the first day of next term - **Monday 19th April.** Please remember that on receipt of a positive test, all parents should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

The school is required to be available for contact tracing duties for the first 6 days of the Easter holidays – until Tuesday 6th April (after this date, all positive cases should be dealt with through NHS Test and Trace). In line with government guidance, school staff members responsible for contact tracing will check the office email once a day until 6th April, and **any close contacts will then be advised by the school via text or email** (sent via Teachers2Parents) **to self-isolate.**

Asymptomatic staff testing – Lateral Flow Tests:

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme using Lateral Flow Test devices twice weekly, we have been advised by the government that it is vital for staff to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. We will continue to do this for all adults working in our school.

I would like to take the opportunity again, to wish you and your family a very happy Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lavelle
Head Teacher

