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Principal:
Jacqueline Hughes-Williams

6th July 2021

Dear parents/carers

Thank you for your support and co-operation with the complexities of contact tracing in school linked to both LFT (Lateral Flow Test) and PCR results. We appreciate your frustrations and write to assure you that we are doing everything we can to limit the inevitable disruption linked to increased rates of infection across the borough.

Reporting Results

Please remember to report **positive results** to all tests (LFT and PCR) to school via the dedicated email address:

- COVID@heart-england.co.uk

You also need to report negative and positive results to *NHS England* as well using the NHS test results website or App.

School rely on being informed by *you as quickly as possible* of all positive results – we are not contacted by NHS England of results so letting us know quickly is important.

LFT (Lateral Flow Test)

Only use LFTs if you have *no symptoms (asymptomatic)*. Use these tests as part of regular self-testing. Let us know of **positive** results. **Positive results require self-isolation** and a **confirmatory PCR test should be booked**. A negative PCR result cancels self-isolation.

PCR Test

These test are done at special centres or at home and posted for processing. It can take up to five days for you to get the results, especially if posted. Let school know *straight away* if you get a **positive** or **negative** result.

Letting us know as quickly as possible helps us to manage contract tracing quickly and informing all parents/carers involved.

Symptoms

If your child develops symptoms they should start to self-isolate immediately and a **PCR test should be accessed**.

Please continue to notify us on COVID@heart-england.co.uk if:

- Your child tests **positive** with a home Lateral Flow Test
- The result of a PCR test (**positive** or **negative**)

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. Many schools are experiencing significant levels of disruption at this time and we continue to work tirelessly to ensure the safety of our students and staff.



HEART OF ENGLAND
Creating Futures

Self-Isolation for Identified Close Contacts

As you are aware schools have been delegated the responsibility, in consultation with the Local Authority and Public Health England, for close contact tracing for all student cases in their organisations.

The school will contact you if your child has been identified as a close contact. There are many unreliable and unhelpful unofficial sources of information that can serve to confuse. If you have not received a call or an e-mail from the school requesting that your child self-isolate then they are expected in school as normal.

We truly appreciate your support as the guidelines are national directives designed to help keep us all as safe as possible.

Following key announcements this week there may be significant changes and we will update and inform you accordingly.

Heart of England School