



# ST MATTHEW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

04.02.2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to provide you with more information about the testing programme in our school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. Through regular testing, we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore offering school staff the option to undertake twice weekly testing.

### Plan for testing

We will be providing lateral flow tests to all **staff members** who wish to take part. The tests kits will be signed out and administered at home. Results are shared with PHE (Public Health England) and school. Please be aware that the outcomes of twice-weekly tests may mean that your child's class/bubble closes at short notice, should a positive case be identified.

### How the tests work

The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be available to the individual participant. The staff member will inform the school and PHE of each test result.

### What if a member of staff tests positive?

If a staff member tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will immediately self-isolate and follow the national guidance as if they had returned a positive PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test. We would ask for your continued understanding and cooperation as your children will also need to self-isolate during this time if they are identified as a close contact.

### What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of staff may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those who test negative will be able to come to school and resume their activities as normal. This will mean no change to bubbles remaining open. Staff members who test negative will still be required to follow the same control measures already in place, such as social distancing from other staff and regular handwashing.

### What if staff or pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or pupils will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through school and that staff are participating in daily contact testing.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at St Matthew's is for staff members with no symptoms. If your child or anyone else in the household develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Thank you for your continued understanding as we work to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of all.

Kind regards,

Mr Langridge  
Headteacher

Let Your Light Shine

St Matthew's CE Primary School

Poplar Road, Stretford, M32 9AN Tel: 0161 865 1284

Email: [admin@stmatthewsce.co.uk](mailto:admin@stmatthewsce.co.uk) Web: [www.stmatthews.trafford.sch.uk](http://www.stmatthews.trafford.sch.uk)

 @StMatthewsPri Headteacher Mr P Langridge