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Mr. Bill Moore, Co-Headteacher



CROSCOMBE

STOKE ST. MICHAEL

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25th January 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff

Dear Parent / Carer,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country for staff in schools using new, quicker COVID 19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. We just wanted to let you know that our schools are starting this testing on staff from this week. Staff will be completing the tests at home and will get results within 30 minutes. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures and help staff members to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission.

If staff test positive with a LFD test they will need to self-isolate in line with the [stay-at-home guidance](#). They will also need to arrange a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result. Staff with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school or nursery and use protective measures.

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 are also expected to 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 a member of staff tests positive?

If a staff member tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards.

The school will be told and the 'bubble' the staff member works in will close immediately and all children and staff in that bubble will be told to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. Online learning will continue.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

If the PCR test is negative the bubble will be able to re-open.

Sara Bannister
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Let Your Light Shine



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What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of participants may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, participants who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if children or staff develop symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for staff with no symptoms. If anyone develops symptoms at any time (such as 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>.

Kind regards,

Bill Moore & Mel Vincent
Co-Head Teachers
Croscombe and Stoke St Michael Primary Federation

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