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Monday 14th March 2022

Changes to the provision of lateral flow tests (LFT)

Dear families,

As part of the 'Living with Coronavirus' response, UK Government is now moving its focus onto guidance whilst targeting protection on individuals most at risk. As a result, test, trace and isolation will play a less important role.

From 21st February, UK Government removed guidance for staff and students in most education settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing. Furthermore, it was announced that onsite asymptomatic testing would stop in all but high-risk settings such as special schools.

From 1st April, UK Government will no longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

This means lateral flow test kits will no longer be available to students from Friday, 18th March.

Remaining test kits will be used to support the continuation of education by allowing staff to test if symptomatic then quickly return to school after two negative test results.

Families can still access lateral flow test kits from www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or through a limited number of local pharmacies. These services will stop on Thursday, 31st March 2022.

As a reminder, if you develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, at present you are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#), and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#). For most people, coronavirus will be a mild illness.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D. Downes
Headteacher
Rye College