Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs)

The Department for Education advice on LFDs:

- If a pupil receives a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it is positive then they, their close contacts, and other members of their household must self-isolate. PCR testing is not advised for a positive result from an LFD test at a school site.
- All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and the child can return to school.

The upshot of this is that during the period when pupils are having their tests at the school's test centre, a positive result on an LFD will require the pupil and their close contacts to isolate for 10 days. In this situation we will not follow up with a PCR confirmatory test.

However, once pupils begin their "home" testing up to house, a positive result on an LFD can be overridden by a confirmatory PCR test. We will handle this PCR test here.

The following links provide more information:

Here is a link to a BBC article on LFDs.

Here is a link to a British Medical Journal (BMJ) article from November 2020.

Here is a link to a BMJ article from December 2020.

If you would like your son to take part in the government programme then please do go to the link below to access the consent form and privacy notice. Once we have your consent to continue, we will schedule the tests for your son and inform his Housemaster and Matron. You may have questions relating to Lateral Flow Testing. Please contact us on covidenquiries@Wincoll.ac.uk and we shall endeavour to answer as soon as possible.

Consent form and Privacy Notice