

'Achieving Excellence through Leadership'

GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss. L. Whitby

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Rapid Tests for families and pupils attending school settings/Payments for families requested to self-isolate

We are very conscious that we send a lot of information related to COVID-19. We do try to only disseminate information which we feel is useful and often this is in response to queries which we might have had regarding the ever changing situation. There are two recent changes which we would like to support families to understand. The first is the introduction of the Lateral Flow Tests which **ALL** adults with school aged-children are advised to use twice a week, along with children attending secondary school. The additional information regards support payments for families who have been requested for their child to self-isolate by the school and will lose pay as a result of not being able to do their job at home. We hope this information is useful.

What are LFTs and PCRs

Lateral Flow Tests are rapid tests which can either be administered by an individual at home or overseen by a professional at a rapid testing site or a school. **Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)** Tests are sent to a lab where the swab detects abnormalities in the individual's DNA. Both of these tests can be booked here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

What do I do if a member of my household tests positive with an LFT?

If it has been administered or overseen at a testing site or in a school then the positive result **does not** need to be checked by a PCR test. The whole household should be isolating at home from ten days since the positive result from the test.

If a LFT has been used by an individual and completed at home then the whole household should self-isolate while a PCR test is booked and the result is confirmed as either positive or negative. If positive then continue to self-isolate but if negative the household may resume normal activities including attending school. In this case please notified the school by forwarding the email received by the NHS.

My child has one of the three symptoms of COVID-19 (loss or change of smell/taste, high temp or persistent cough) should I use a Rapid Flow Test to see if it is positive?

No. In this situation a PCR test should be booked via the link above. When you receive this result you should inform the school by forwarding the NHS notification of the result.



My secondary child has tested positive and has a sibling at this school what should I do?

As students should be testing in the morning before school the sibling who attends our school should NOT attend school. Please call the office to respond as to which action (see above) you are taking so we can amend the attendance records.

I will lose work as a result of needing to stay at home and isolate what support can I have?

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

How can I apply for this payment?

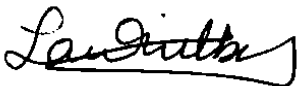
Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result

Giles Junior School will send a supporting letter advising that you have been required to self-isolate should you wish to apply. Once you have applied and it is agreed the criteria has been met for the payment then the school will be called to verify it is correct.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Louise Whitby
Headteacher