

ARE/JWA

3 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my letter dated 26 February 2021, I wanted to send you a further update and outline our plans for reopening next week.

I informed you that we have been trying to address the issue of implementing lateral flow device (LFD) testing on the UTC site with the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE). The UTC site does not have a space that meets the appropriate requirements for ventilation and flooring that are needed to ensure testing can be implemented safely in a controlled environment. Without the ability to meet these requirements the UTC cannot guarantee the safety of any staff who may volunteer to carry out testing or the students being tested. This issue only affects the three tests proposed by the government for when students return to school. From the w/c 15 March 2021, students will be able to undertake two LFD tests per week at home. The UTC is expected to take delivery of these during the w/c 8 March and we will distribute these to those engaging with the testing programme, as soon as possible after delivery.

Involvement in the LFD testing programme is highly recommended by the government, but it is voluntary. Individuals will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing. For all parents and students who have expressed their desire to be involved in the testing programme and want to engage with this prior to returning to the UTC next week, we have the option of accessing testing via local rapid flow testing sites to mitigate the restrictions of running a facility onsite. The government announced this week that twice-weekly testing using LFD tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. These tests were made available from 1 March 2021. Details of how parents can access these tests are included at the end of this letter. I also need to highlight that anyone who has received a positive Covid-19 test result should not undertake a LFD within 90 days of the result.

Anyone undertaking a LFD test are legally obliged to report their result to NHS Test and Trace via the App or telephone number. In addition, **parents must inform the UTC of the result (positive / negative / unclear) of all tests by emailing [admin@utcshffield.org.uk](mailto:admin@utcshffield.org.uk)**. If the LFD test returns a positive result, a Covid-19 PCR test should be booked at a testing centre to confirm the result and the household should self-isolate. A link to guidance including instructional videos on how to self-test is also included at the end of this letter. Can we please reiterate to parents that they **should not** send their child to school if they are feeling unwell and should book a Covid-19 PCR test if they show any symptoms.

Due to the reasons explained above, the UTC does not need to open from 8 March 2021 with a staggered start for students, to accommodate on site LFD testing. **Therefore, we would like to ask that all students return to the UTC on Monday 8 March 2021 at the normal time.** All of the measures that were in place from the last period of opening are still

in place. These include encouraging hand hygiene, social distancing, avoiding the mixing of bubbles, face coverings and track, trace and isolation processes. These points will be reiterated to all students upon their return.

In addition, the government issued some additional guidance around face coverings. It is highly recommended that face coverings be worn at all times when social distancing cannot be observed. We are therefore recommending this but it is not mandatory. Students and staff are expected to wear a face covering whenever they are in communal areas. If a student wants to wear a face covering at all times, including in classrooms, we will allow them to do so but as stated, this is not a mandatory requirement.

We are very excited about welcoming our students back to the UTC from next week and we would ask that all parents and students support us in following the guidance and measures we have in place to protect all of the UTC community.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Alex Reynolds  
Principal

## **Links to additional information:**

### **Guidance including instructional videos on how to self-test**

Covid-19 self-test help: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

## **Accessing rapid lateral flow tests**

### **Take a test at a rapid lateral flow test site**

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

You may need to book an appointment.

You can find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site at the following link: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

### **Collect test kits**

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

You can find your nearest home test kit collection point at the following link: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

### **Order home test kits online**

If you cannot get tested at your workplace, or are unable to go to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online.

Do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

You can order rapid lateral flow home test kits at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>