



The Priory School

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Dear parents and carers

Apologies for contacting you again after my long letter last week but it appears there has been another u-turn on lateral flow testing. We received a communication from the Department of Education, which stated that all serial (every day of close contacts of a confirmed Covid case) testing was to be paused as a result of media attention with regard to their being used in this way. It was unclear if this meant our weekly testing of students as well. The DfE were contacted and they have clarified that they meant pausing of **all testing once students have received their initial two tests on their return to school**. I must stress this is not because they believe they are, in any way, harmful. The swabbing process matches that of the normal full test. It is just that, apparently, their use and validity in serial testing with this age group needs more evidence from Public Health England.

In the meantime, we are being asked to increase staff testing to twice a week.

We will pause weekly testing with students for the moment and come back to you once we know more.

This is not the way, I would choose to work and I am sincerely sorry that you are receiving conflicting information with regard to this aspect of our work but unfortunately, this one is beyond my control.

Kind regards

Mrs A Pope
Headteacher