

All Post Primary, Primary and Nursery School Principals

3 November 2021

Dear Principal

### Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing Programme Update

I hope that you have been able to enjoy a well-deserved break over the Half Term. Covid continues to present significant challenges to schools and this will remain this case as we move into winter. An important mitigation measure to prevent the spread of Covid 19 continues to be the provision of Asymptomatic Testing for staff and pupils Yrs 8 – 14 and your school will continue to have access to the LFD Testing Programme. **It is extremely important that as many staff and pupils participate in the testing programme as possible and I would strongly encourage you to promote this programme with everyone in your school.** Included in this letter is an important update on the LFD programme which it is hoped will help to boost participation rates.

### Change of kits for schools - Move to nasal swab kits

Up to now schools have been using LFD kits which required a nasal and throat (dual) swab to provide a sample for testing. **From 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 schools will now be able to order kits which require a nasal swab only.** All other guidance remains the same. Tests are carried out at home, staff (and post primary pupils) are strongly encouraged to take a test twice weekly and register the result as before.

### Ordering LFD kits - Direct Ordering Process

All schools can order LFD kits via a Direct Ordering portal: <https://request-testing.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk> and will automatically receive the new kits from 15 November 2021.

Guidance on how to order kits using the Unique Organisation Number (UON) provided to your school/setting and using the 119 support service is available [here](#). **Before ordering the new kits you should ensure that you first use any stock you have remaining in school.** Please remember to factor in a 7 day delivery period when you are ordering kits. E.g. Orders placed w/c 15<sup>th</sup> November will be expected to arrive during w/c 22 November.

Further information and guidance on the LFD Programme for schools are available on the following link: <https://sites.google.com/c2ken.net/covid-19-niprincipals/home/lateral-flow-testing?authuser=0>.

Thank you again for your ongoing support with this important programme. The Education Authority continues to work closely with our colleagues in the Department of Health and will provide further updates to school leaders as and when they are available.

If you wish to contact the EA regarding the LFD programme please do so on [LFDTesting@eani.org.uk](mailto:LFDTesting@eani.org.uk)

Yours Sincerely



**Dale Hanna**  
Director Operations and Estates  
Education Authority

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

**Education Authority**

Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 2HS T: +44 (0)28 9056 6200 W: [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)