



21 October 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and students of The Ladies' College

I hope that it has been a positive half term, and am grateful for your support and vigilance as we, as a College, manage and support individuals with symptoms for the benefit of all.

We are aware that the presence of cases within the College, and island, means that the sharing and discussion of this information amongst year groups can lead to some sensitivities, and ask that we all remain supportive of each other as detail of positive LFT or PCR results is known through the informal sharing of this detail.

Covid-19

Attached to this letter are two media releases issued last week about **Good Covid-19 practice** and **Free Lateral Flow Tests** that can be collected, should you choose to do so.

We are also grateful to Public Health for clarifying that if you have Covid symptoms and receive a negative PCR and your symptoms have not changed, then you are welcome to come into College, if you are well enough to do so.

There has also been a change in what is required of close contacts who will be asked by Public Health to stay at home, until further Public Health advice is provided to them, instead of being mandated to stay at home.

Return to College

The States of Guernsey have asked us to share the following detail which relates to all pupils and students from Lower Prep (Reception) to Upper Sixth (Year 13).

'As part of Education's regular discussions with colleagues in Public Health, we are asking for your further support as we seek to manage the implications of COVID-19 within education settings.

*Following half term, we are asking **all students** to take a lateral flow test before coming to school or College on the first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after the break (1st, 2nd and 3rd of November).*

This is a further measure to try and reduce the risk of outbreaks in education settings following half term. We know that many families are intending to travel off-island during the break.

The regular use of LFTs has proved successful in helping identify cases so we would ask you to continue supporting us by following these Public Health measures. We all want to ensure as little disruption as possible to students' education.

Hopefully you all have LFT packs at home, from the supplies sent to each household before school started in September, but if you need more you can collect additional LFTs from the Guernsey Information Centre in the North Esplanade. Opening times for the Guernsey Information Centre can be found at [Lateral Flow Testing \(LFT\) | States of Guernsey - COVID-19 \(gov.gg\)](#)'

Safeguarding

Whilst writing, I also wanted to share some clear advice, linked to a contextual safeguarding meeting which I attended on Tuesday, where a recent incident involving young people out of school has resulted in one of them being unwell in hospital in the UK. The advice to us all is to seek support from the police if we feel unsafe in any way, and to call an ambulance if someone is unwell and we do not know what to do. I will revisit this after half term, yet encourage parents to have the conversation with their children and students to look after themselves and also others, over the half term break and always!

Visit by the incoming Principal

In closing, it has been great to have Ms Daniele Harford-Fox in College this week and to welcome her to our Commemoration Service, to celebrate the 149th year of The Ladies' College. I know that everyone here has enjoyed meeting her, as much as she has enjoyed meeting colleagues, students and pupils. Parents will be invited to meet Daniele in March, when she will next visit and please do look out for the interview she gave whilst here, to find out more about her and to understand why she is so excited to join this great community.

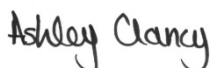
In closing, thank you again for your support of following Covid-19 guidance, with the 3 key elements for us to keep in mind summarised below:

- 1) Updating the College of a positive LFT or PCR
- 2) Remaining at home if you are experiencing any symptoms that could be linked to Covid-19 and contacting Public Health for advice
- 3) Following Public Health advice regarding your daughter's return to College.

I also attach a link to our Pre-Preparatory film <https://www.ladiescollege.com/our-school/pre-preparatory-department> and ask you to visit our website and our Facebook page to "like" or share with others. We hope it will make you smile, regardless of your age!

Have a good half-term break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday, 1 November 2021.

Your sincerely



Ashley Clancy
Principal

Media Release

Date: 13 October 2021

Islanders urged to follow good COVID-19 practice ahead of winter

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, health officials are urging Islanders to continue following the good practice they have adopted as part of living responsibly with COVID.

In recent days, active case numbers have increased and there have been two hospital admissions.

Case numbers will rise and fall, and this in itself is not necessarily a cause for concern given the very high levels of vaccination in the community. However, some of the recent cases have led to concerns for health officials that some of the fundamental guidance for reducing the spread of COVID-19 is not being followed. For example, there is evidence of people being symptomatic and not reporting these symptoms but instead continuing as normal in the community for several days, transmitting the virus as they do so.

Dr Peter Rabey, Medical Director, said

“Our vaccination levels have dramatically reduced the number of people who will become seriously ill if they catch COVID. They have reduced transmission too, but transmission can still happen, it is still possible to spread the virus. So alongside the vaccines, we’ve continued to advise people that they should practice good hand hygiene, respect each others’ personal space, avoid poorly ventilated or crowded spaces where possible. Most of all we’ve urged people to stay at home if they have any symptoms and report them so they can be tested.

Those continue to be extremely important in reducing the spread of the virus. If we don’t follow any of those measures, cases will rise, especially as it gets colder and we’re all spending more time indoors.

More than anything, I’d urge people to think of the most vulnerable in our community. The vaccine will give them much better protection, but it doesn’t make them immune. We could still see some people become very ill. Even if that’s only a small percentage, if the number of active cases increases then so will the numbers needing hospital care.”

Dr Nicola Brink, Director of Public Health, said

“We’ve been very successful in managing the number of cases while we’ve relaxed our border restrictions. But that’s only because we’ve taken responsibility as individuals, as families, and as businesses to reduce our own personal risk. However, we have seen an increase in the number of cases over the last few days. Case number may fluctuate, but it’s really important we don’t become complacent just as we head into the winter months, if for no other reason than to protect the most vulnerable Islanders. We cannot forget that in some cases this can still be a potentially deadly virus. Many of us will have elderly or vulnerable friends and relatives, we may work alongside them, we may visit them in care settings, and we should take seriously our responsibility in keeping them safe.”

Media Release

Date: 15 October 2021

Free Lateral Flow Test kits to be made available to all Islanders

Packs of 25 Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits will be made available to all Islanders from Monday (18th October).

The use of these kits will help us slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, particularly over the winter months. During this time we are more likely to be indoors, in crowded places or attending parties, and potentially coming into contact with positive cases.

Islanders are being advised to consider using these kits:

- To regularly test themselves to check if they have the virus - it is recommended they take two tests per week, every week.
- If they are asked to do so by the Contact Tracing Team as they have been identified as a contact of a case;
- Before visiting a vulnerable person, for example someone living in a Care and Residential Home;
- Before attending an event or meeting in a crowded or poorly ventilated place;
- If asked to do so by Public Health Services.

Anyone experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms must still stay at home and report those symptoms to the Clinical Helpline. The Clinical Helpline will advise on further testing. Islanders should NOT use LFTs as an alternative to getting clinical advice.

If you have had a positive result from an LFT then you need to phone the Clinical Helpline on 220001 or 220002 straight away to book in for a PCR test. You need to stay at home until you have the result of this test. If the LFT is for a child, please notify the child's school or childcare setting. Other people in your household do not need to stay home at this stage.

If your PCR test is negative you can return to your normal activities but, if you feel unwell, Public Health recommend that you stay at home .

If your PCR test confirms you are positive for COVID-19 you will need to continue to isolate and you will be contacted by Public Health Services.

Dr Nicola Brink, Director of Public Health said

“This provides us with a further useful tool for managing COVID-19 and will help us prevent the virus spreading, particularly to vulnerable people or in settings where it could spread very widely. This also allows us to provide any support that is needed to the person with diagnosed with COVID-19 as soon as possible, as well as ensuring that the Contact Tracers can start working promptly to break the chains of transmission of the virus. It is really important that anyone with a positive LFT telephones the Clinical Helpline to arrange for a confirmatory PCR test.”

Director of the COVID-19 Response, Richard Evans said

“Lateral flow tests are one of the tools we use for managing COVID-19, something Islanders have done incredibly well in recent months, and so offering them to all Islanders so they have a supply at hand makes good sense. This is so important as we move forward to living responsibly with COVID-19.”

The Lateral Flow Test kits will be available for an initial two-week period from the COVID-19 tent at the end of the Crown Pier in St Peter Port, every day except Wednesdays and Sundays, at the following times:

Date	Opening times	Date	Opening times
Monday 18 th October	9:00-17:30	Monday 25 th October	9:00-17:30
Tuesday 19 th October	9:00-17:30	Tuesday 26 th October	9:00-17:30
Thursday 21 st October	9:00-17:30	Thursday 28 th October	9:00-17:30
Friday 22 nd October	9:00-14:00	Friday 29 th October	9:00-14:00
Saturday 23 rd October	10:00 – 14:00	Saturday 30 th October	10:00-14:00

Parking will be available for people attending to collect LFT packs. Islanders are asked to take no more packs than they need, and the States will continue to provide these as long as supplies are available.

Anyone not able to collect a pack in person can ask a friend or family member to collect one for them. If this is also not possible, they can contact lateralflowqueries@gov.gg or call the non-clinical helpline on 01481 717118 to arrange a delivery.

Anyone attending the Community Vaccination Centre at Beau Sejour for a vaccine will also be able to collect a free pack when doing so.

The States is also discussing other ways of distributing the packs to all sections of the community and has begun to engage third sector organisations about supporting this initiative.

The Lateral Flow Test kits will also be available in Alderney, Sark and Herm at the following locations and times:

Alderney:

Harbour (next to the Harbour showers) - from Monday through to Sunday between 9:00-10:30 and 13:30-14:30.

Sark:

The Government of Sark, Committee Office - from Monday through to Friday from 11:00-15:00.

Herm:

Main Harbour Office - from Monday through to Sunday between 9:00-17:00.