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Principal: Tony Segalini

Date: 25th May 2021

LFD/PCR dual-testing for over-16s at Kettering Science Academy – May/June 2021

All those aged 16 or over at Kettering Science Academy, staff and students, are being asked to take part in an evaluation of the lateral flow device (LFD) home testing process for covid-19. This involves taking a PCR test alongside the LFD home test, once only.

All those over 16 are encouraged to take part. Those who give consent will be given a PCR test to take home and use, and full instructions on what to do with it.

By taking part in this evaluation you will be supporting the scale and speed at which national testing can safely be deployed. Increasing testing capacity will be key in unlocking the country and allowing life to return to normal in as swift and safe a manner as possible.

Rapid testing using LFDs has a part to play in increasing the number of people we can test. This evaluation will help gain a better understanding of how we can continue to use rapid tests safely in different settings.

Below are some common questions with answers as supplied by the Department of Health & Social Care.

Do I have to take part in this evaluation process?

“Participation is voluntary but encouraged.”

“If you are not doing regular tests with LFDs then you are not asked to complete PCR tests”.

Why is a PCR lab test required at this time?

“The PCR testing done alongside LFD testing is to help evaluate the performance of LFD in a particular setting; that is, the LFD results can be compared to the PCR results (the reference standard) to demonstrate whether the LFD is providing the level of accuracy that is expected based on previous studies. Results will not be analysed at a site level, but instead will be aggregated across use cases.”

What will happen to the data from this work?

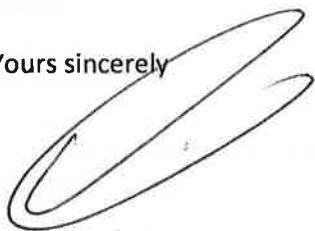
“The data we obtain from the dual-swabbing exercise will be aggregated with data from other sites and potentially other similar mass-testing use-cases and used to determine whether devices being used are performing as expected in that use case. In some cases, the aggregated information will be provided to the regulators as part of pre-approval commitments, while in other cases this will be used for internal quality assurance purposes.”



A booklet with full written instructions will be given to all those giving consent and taking a PCR test kit.

Please contact akirk@ketteringscienceacademy.org if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Segalini
Principal

