

Dear Head Teacher

**Re Lateral Flow Testing**

I am writing further to your request for me to undertake lateral flow tests on the children in our school. My Trade Union GMB has advised me that I have the right to refuse this request. I do not want to be responsible for carrying out the tests on children because it is not something I am comfortable with doing.

Whilst I and GMB support mass testing in schools to try and stop the spread of the virus, we believe that any testing in school must be fully planned and risk assessed with union engagement. Further, if any support staff do volunteer to take part in testing duty there should be training for this along with the provision of the correct personal protective equipment (PPE), appropriate clinical oversight and clear guarantees around any potential liabilities.

There is also real concern around the reported high percentage of false negatives generated by the lateral flow tests being proposed and it should only be used as an additional measure. I would like your reassurance that bubbles and self-isolation, alongside all additional other safety measures, will be retained for the foreseeable future.

I hope you understand this position. I am keen for our school to be as safe as possible for children and colleagues and I am willing to test myself as part of a mass lateral flow testing in schools.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

