



MILLOM SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr M. D Savidge

Ref:G/mlmad/COVID/stdnthometest

18 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

As part of reopening schools, the government have asked that students take 3 lateral flow tests in school. These tests have now been completed and I have been very impressed by the mature way in which students took part in the tests. 1155 tests were completed over 8 days and all tests were confirmed as negative. I would like to thank the staff involved in the test process for the support they have given to the students on returning to school.

The government have asked that from now on students take two lateral flow tests at home each week, 3 to 5 days apart. Your child will be given their lateral flow test kits in school on Thursday 18th March. Taking part in home testing is voluntary, however I would strongly encourage students to take part in home testing in order to help protect school and the wider community.

Ideally the test should be carried out in the mornings before school and so could be completed on a Monday and Thursday morning. Some of our students travel significant distances and so there may not be time in the mornings to carry out a test. If your child does not have time in the morning to take the test then they can be taken in the evenings and I would recommend taking the test on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.

Each test kit has a set of instructions which are relatively straight forward to follow. However, we have put a couple of videos and some additional information on our Facebook page to show you how the test should be completed. Your child will have some experience now of how to complete the test if they have been involved in the testing in school. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

There are instructions in the booklet that comes with the tests on how to report the result to NHS track and trace. As a school we cannot access these results and so schools are also being asked by the government to keep a testing register. We are using a system provided by TestRegister that allows results to be recorded online by following an emailed link. A brief video which demonstrates this system can be found by clicking [here](#). The privacy statement for TestRegister can be found [here](#).

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It is particularly important that we know if a child tests positive as we would have to complete our own track and trace process in school. If your child's home test is positive, then you should self-isolate as a household, follow government guidance and arrange for a PCR test to be completed at a testing site.

Your child has been given 6 tests to complete at home which are enough tests to take you into the first week of the Easter holiday. The government have confirmed that they would like students to test themselves during the Easter holiday and so we are expecting a delivery of more kits to cover the rest of this time. We will give these to students in the week before the Easter holidays.

There is more detail covered in the FAQs below but if you have any questions then do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your support with the home testing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M D Savidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'D'.

M D Savidge
Headteacher

Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Students and parents do not give written consent to take part in the home testing programme. Please read the information below on how personal information and test results are shared. Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Millom school regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void).

Can my child take the test themselves?

Students aged 18 and over should do the test themselves and report the result, with help if they need it.

Students ages 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the [pupil/student] to take the test if they need support.

Students aged 11 must be tested by an adult and the adult must report the result.

Reporting problems or issues with testing

If there is an issue with the test kit, for example something is missing, please report it by calling **119** and please also tell the school.

If an accident or injury happens whilst using the test kit, please seek medical care by calling 111 (or 999 if it is an emergency). Please also report what happened using this website: <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus

LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

What does it mean if my child has a positive result?

If your child has a positive antigen LFD test result they, their household and any support bubbles they are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) for 10 days. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and your school.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home.

You can [book a test here](#).

What does it mean if my child has a negative result?

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

What if my child has a void result?

If the result of the test is unclear (void), they should take another one. If the next test is also void, your child should take a PCR test. You can [book a test here](#).

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and school.

Do I need to send the test to a lab?

No. The LFDs supplied do not need to be sent to a laboratory to get a result and can give a quick result in around 30 minutes. Guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet, which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

How do you report the result?

You should report your result whether it is positive, negative or void using this [service](#). You also need to tell the school the test result. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

All test results need to be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](#) and Millom School.

Can I or someone else in my household use a test kit sent home from school?

No, however whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home. This testing can be accessed through the following channels:

- get a rapid test at work, through workplace testing. Ask your employer for more information
- attend a test site to get tested where you will be able to see how to take the test or pick up tests to do at home (you can find your nearest test site via the postcode checker www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site or check your local council website)
- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19/test-and-trace/)

If these options are not possible, there will be a supply of rapid tests for order online for people who need them the most. More information can be found on www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

There is [more information available about testing for households and bubbles of students](#).

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- your child's name
- your child's test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child's school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'. This means that your child's data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child's data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.