



Cranborne Middle School



Headteacher: Mr R Stevens
Assistant Headteachers: Mrs R Cain, Mr S Gillott

Friday 10th September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart. We have just finished our testing program within school and I have been so impressed with everyone's attitude towards this.

The Government announced that all secondary and college aged pupils will be offered tests when we return to school after the summer holidays to make the return to school safer for everyone. As we are a middle school, deemed secondary, we have been offering the tests to all of our pupils.

Testing pupils at home

Today pupils will be bringing a pack containing 7 lateral flow tests home in preparation for their self-testing (unless your child was removed from the register previously at your request). For year 5 parents, if you do not wish to use the tests, or already have a supply, please do return the box unopened to school.

We are initially only sending home tests for the rest of September as we are awaiting guidance as to whether testing will continue beyond that.

We would like them to take their tests as follows:

Test 1 – Sunday night / Monday morning

Test 2 – Wednesday night / Thursday morning

How to take the test

Year 5 pupils will receive a leaflet (either v1.3.2 or v1.3.3) with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. Please DO NOT use the leaflet that is in the box, as the guidance has been updated since they were published.

There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCqo7MhQT6U>

Additional help and support is available, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test at the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

All test results (positive, negative or void) need to be reported to NHS Test & Trace self-report website via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result.

Only positive and void results need to be reported to Cranborne Middle School via the school office.

Damerham Road ❖ Cranborne ❖ Wimborne ❖ Dorset ❖ BH21 5RP

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Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all pupils will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. We are strongly encouraging all pupils to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other pupils to attend school as safely as possible.

Please contact Mr S Gillott, our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mr R Stevens
Headteacher and DSL Cranborne Middle School

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Some frequently asked questions

Do I need to give consent?

Pupils 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 and the privacy notice enclosed.

Once you open the kit you should take and report the results of the tests to NHS Test & Trace regardless of the result (positive, negative, or void). Only **positive** and **void** results need to be reported to Cranborne Middle School.

Can my child take the test themselves?

Pupils aged 12 and above should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the pupil to take the test if they need support.

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

Why are year 5 and 6 pupils being included?

As we are a middle school, deemed secondary, we felt it would be beneficial to include all of our pupils in the testing programme. This was following advice from Public Health England and has enabled us to provide reassurance across the school that we are taking all measures possible to monitor the health of our pupils and staff.

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 been tested.

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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.

All positive test results must be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and Cranborne Middle School.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

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.

All void test results need to be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and Cranborne Middle School.

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 and observing social distancing.

All negative test results only need to be reported to NHS Test & Trace.

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)

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- collect tests to do at home, find your nearest collection site [COVID Test Finder \(test and trace.nhs.uk\)](#)
- 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

If family members experience COVID19 symptoms, they must follow standard Government guidance, including self-isolating immediately and booking a test through the NHS Coronavirus (COVID 19) service or by calling 119 (England and Wales).

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 if the result is positive or void.

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.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice enclosed.

Should someone who has been vaccinated take an antigen LFD test?

Yes, we do not yet know whether vaccines prevent individuals transmitting the virus. The vaccine does not interfere with the antigen LFD or PCR tests.

Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

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If, however, you do have an antigen LFD test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme, and the result of this test is positive, you and your household should self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.
If it is more than 90 days since you tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, and you have new symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive antigen LFD or PCR test, follow the steps in this guidance again.

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