



Be the best you can be

Christleton Primary School

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Friday 19th March 2021

PCR and Lateral Flow Tests

Dear parents,

On March 4th I wrote to you regarding the availability of asymptomatic tests for all adults in households with school age children.

<http://www.christletonprimaryschool.co.uk/uploads/files/lateral-flow-tests-for-parents-746.pdf>

The NHS recommends this testing to support in reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

We have heard from several parents who have requested these tests (or been provided them by their employer) which is fantastic as it further supports the measures we have implemented in school.

We do though have to distinguish between these tests and what is required should a child be displaying symptoms.

The PCR test

The Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test is the most common form of testing in the UK. These tests are around 99% effective. They are the tests sent out by the NHS to people who have symptoms.

The PCR test should therefore be used if a person is showing symptoms to confirm or rule out COVID.

Lateral flow testing

Lateral flow tests are designed to identify asymptomatic cases. They have been used across England after a pilot in Liverpool and use a similar technology to a pregnancy test.

While the test result returns very quickly, there are questions over its sensitivity, with initial tests by PHE Porton Down and the University of Oxford of the Innova lateral flow test being used in Liverpool finding 76.8% sensitivity - the proportion of people with COVID-19 who show up positive. SAGE, the government's scientific advisory group, warned that with mass testing, false positives and false negatives could have "critical implications" for effectiveness, **therefore a follow-up confirmatory test is highly important.**



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In summary,

- **If someone is showing symptoms they need to take the PCR test to confirm or rule out COVID.** (A child will therefore need a negative PCR to return to school)
- **If you are taking the lateral flow test and receive a positive test, then a PCR should be used to confirm.**
- **A negative lateral flow test is not sufficient for a child to return to school if they had displayed symptoms.**

Please note, if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms the guidance regarding self-isolation still applies (further details can be found in earlier correspondence or on the school website)

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell



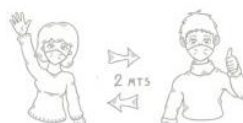


Return to School

Help us to keep our school and community as COVID-19 safe as possible.



Stay at home if you are sick or display any COVID-19 symptom



Socially distance (and continue to wear face coverings)



Cough or sneeze into flexed elbow or tissue - dispose of tissue immediately



Wear a face covering when collecting and dropping off



Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based gel



Ventilate areas



Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects



Greet people with a wave or nod



Follow local and national guidance when out of school.



Inform the school if you have a positive test

