



08 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

HOME TESTING

I am writing to inform you of South Dartmoor Community College and Atrium's expectations regarding asymptomatic testing for children at home over the next few weeks. Please take the time to read this particular letter very carefully and then go through the expectations with your child prior to receiving the lateral flow test kits (LFD).

Undertaking regular, rapid COVID-19 testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Home testing is voluntary, but we strongly recommended to all who are eligible, to use the Lateral flow device twice a week at home. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates.

Why are we recommending LFD testing?

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

Lateral flow testing is for individuals **not displaying COVID symptoms**. It is important to remember the symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough;
- a high temperature;
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If students have symptoms of COVID-19, they must arrange to have a Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and inform the school. The student and any close contacts will be asked to self-isolate whilst awaiting the PCR test result.

Consent for home testing using the LFD

Consent is different to testing on-site. Once a LFD testing kit is collected and opened, consent has been given. Please use the [link](#) to view our 'testing from home privacy statement'.

Once the LFD kits are distributed to students, we will be recommending students test twice weekly, taking a test every 3 or 4 days apart (Sunday and Wednesday). Students will need to report every result to the NHS test and trace on the same day the test is taken. Guidance will be provided within the help guide provided to all students on collection of their LFD kit.

Any student who has been vaccinated should continue (at their consent) with LFD testing at home.

Cont/d

What happens if I receive a positive LFD result?

If a student receives a positive LFD test at home, they will be required to book a PCR test. The student concerned and any close-contacts should immediately begin self-isolation. If the PCR test is negative the self-isolation can cease. We would ask parents/carers to use the contact details below to inform us of a **positive** LFD test result.

covidlft@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk

Negative LFD results mean the test did not find signs of coronavirus. However, this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all coronavirus advice including:

- regular handwashing;
- social distancing;
- wearing a face covering where recommended.

Throughout society, there are wide-ranging views on many different aspects of the COVID-19 global pandemic, not least testing using LFD kits. We can only take on board all of the information available and make the best decision possible for the safety, wellbeing and education of the staff and students at South Dartmoor and Atrium.

We only want what is best for everyone and I would ask for your understanding, your support and your full cooperation at this time.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. We are very much looking forward to next week. We cannot wait to see your child and to welcome them back.

Best wishes,

Mr D Vile

Assistant Head teacher

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