**Cumbria County Council Public Health Update**

**12 March 2021**

**Parents and carers carrying out LFD testing at home**

The Public Health team at Cumbria County Council are becoming aware of a number of children who are being LFD (rapidly) tested at home. Whilst it is a positive development that households now have access to LFD tests, some issues are arising, so please can you share the advice below with parents and carers in relation to LFD testing at home:

* If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, please arrange for them to have a PCR test, which can be arranged via the link here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. LFD tests are for asymptomatic testing (i.e. testing people who do not have symptoms) and should NOT be used to test individuals with symptoms.
* If your child is isolating because they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, a negative LFD result will not change their isolation period. They still need to complete the isolation period advised (because they can develop symptoms, or test positive without showing symptoms, at any point during the isolation period).
* Please ensure ALL LFD test results are reported online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) or by telephone via 119. When reporting a result, please ensure you provide all the relevant personal contact details.
* If an LFD test is carried out on a child at home and shows a positive result, a follow-up PCR test needs to be completed as soon as possible (which can be booked here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119) and the household should isolate immediately. The child’s school should be informed of the result, as they will need to identify any close contacts from the setting at this point and ask them to isolate.

- if the follow-up test result is positive, the household and other close contacts need to isolate for 10 days (day ‘1’ is counted as the day following the LFT test). Please engage with track and trace services if they contact you and provide details of close contacts.

- if the follow up test result is negative the individual, their household members and other close contacts can end their isolation immediately.

Any queries about this update, please contact the Cumbria County Council Public Health Team by emailing EducationIPC@cumbria.gov.uk

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