

14th December 2021

Covid 19 Update from the Department of Education

Dear Parent/Carer

Guidance regarding daily testing for close contacts

From Tuesday 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – **should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating**. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to school. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12th December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

Schools cannot identify individuals with a positive COVID test or individuals who have been asked to daily test as a close contact to other parents or the community.

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All students will be issued with two sets of seven LFD tests tomorrow to enable them to test over the Christmas period and also to test daily if they have been identified as a close contact.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school community safe.

With kind regards



Helen Watts
Principal

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