



## **COVID UPDATE**

**24 January 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware there has been a steep increase in Covid-19 case numbers in the community over recent weeks.

Given the high numbers of cases and dramatic increase in community transmission, we in school are also seeing an increased number of staff and pupils who are testing positive.

With guidance changing we appreciate that it is hard to keep up to date and often find the most relevant information.

### **Close Contacts:**

#### **At Home:**

A close contact is anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19

#### **If someone at home tests positive school aged children are**

- advised to isolate and take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as possible.
- if this is negative you can stop isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case.
- the lateral flow tests should ideally be taken before you leave the house for the first time each day.
- if any lateral flow test is positive, they should isolate immediately. (You no longer need to book a PCR test.)
- **If at any time-** they develop symptoms, you should isolate immediately and book a PCR even if the lateral flow test is negative.

### **Nursery Children**

- It is no longer necessary for children under five years of age to take a PCR test – even if they have symptoms like a cough or temperature - unless advised to do so by their doctor.
- If they develop symptoms and are identified as a close contact of a positive case, parents are encouraged to carry out a lateral flow test.
- If this is negative, daily lateral flow tests are not required, however if a child has been identified as a close contact and has symptoms there is an increased risk that the child may have COVID-19.
- If a lateral flow test result is positive the child has COVID and should isolate. There is no need to do a PCR test.
- If it is not possible to carry out any test because the child will not tolerate the swab, parents and carers should take a cautious approach and avoid contact with vulnerable and older adults.
- They should also stay at home until they do not have a temperature and are well enough to return to school or childcare.

### **In School:**

School has since the outbreak of the pandemic maintained constant mitigations to ensure containment of the virus. However, with Omicron we are seeing more children and staff testing positive.

### **Current guidance for school aged children:**

- if your child has been identified by the PHA as a close contact they will be asked to complete daily LFT for ten days, the same as all family members.
- if there are an increased number of positive cases within a class over a ten day period parents will receive a letter advising them that **all children** in the class are being asked to complete an LFT before returning to school.
- If the child's LFT is negative but they have or develop symptoms within the week they should book a PCR test.

### **If my child tests positive:**

Your child will have to self-isolate for 10 days

You may be able to end your self-isolation period after five full days of isolation, with release on day six, provided you have two consecutive negative lateral flow test results taken 24 hours apart, with the first of these taken no earlier than day five.

If both these test results are negative, and **you do not have a high temperature**, you may end your self-isolation immediately following the second negative test result on day six.

You should [report your LFD test results](#)(external link opens in a new window / tab) after taking each test.

**Up-to-date guidance can be found at-**

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts>

