

Updated guidance as of 11th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from my letter dated 7.1.22, we currently have 19 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in school. I would like to draw your attention to the following government changes.

What should I do if I suspect someone has COVID 19?

- If you or your child has COVID-19 symptoms, you should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. You should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, you must continue to self-isolate.

What should I do if my child or I has a positive Lateral Flow Test?

- **If you have a positive lateral flow test, you should now accept this as a positive diagnosis and self-isolate for 7-10 days. This should be reported on the Government website.**

What is the current self-isolation period for children and adults who test positive for COVID-19?

The 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR or LFT test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days, provided you test negative on a Lateral Flow test taken 24 hours apart on day 6 and day 7.

- Your child is able to return to school on **day 8 if they receive two negative LFT results on day 6 and day 7.**
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFT testing at parental or guardian discretion. If you choose to test your child and both test results are negative and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end self-isolation after the second negative test result and return **to school from day 8.**
- Anyone who doesn't take LFT tests (or are testing positive on day 6 and day 7) will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

What if my child is a close contact of someone infected with COVID-19?

Anyone living in the same household as someone with COVID-19 is at a significantly higher risk of becoming infected. If, as parents, you or someone else in the home is testing positive and your child displays no symptoms or has tested negative, you must follow the steps below.

Reception to Year 6 children

Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, must take an **LFT test every day for seven days**, but may continue to attend school as normal if the tests are negative.

We request that these tests are taken each morning before the child attends school.

If your child has a positive lateral flow test, you **do not** need a PCR to confirm the test result, but will need to self-isolate.

In line with isolation requirements, parents should arrange for their child to be picked up and dropped off at school by an uninfected person. If you cannot arrange for someone to bring your child to school for you, please contact the school office and we arrange for home learning tasks to be set on Seesaw by class teachers. These absences will be authorised until the adult period of isolation ends. Also, if your child requires any technology to support their home learning, we do have a supply of Ipads for your child to loan during their isolation period.

Nursery children

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing if they are a close contact. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

If Public Health identifies the school as having a Covid-19 class outbreak, we may be contacting you to inform you that your child has been a close contact and the Public Health Team and the Local Council will therefore request that your child takes a PCR test (please find attached, guidance for how to book a PCR test in these circumstances).

I appreciate that all this information is complex and often confusing, but I hope this has made things a little easier to follow. Please continue to contact school if you have any questions and support us in our measures to keep everyone safe.