



19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The information that you received in October 2021 has now been reviewed and in light of the current data we would urge you to follow the newly published government guidance as set out below.

Around one in three people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms. Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others.

The following information is applicable for children aged **5 years and over**:

### **Close Contact Testing Requirements**

If your child is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace or school inform you of a positive case within your child's class, then daily LFD tests are strongly advised for seven days.

Your child can continue to access education if they are well, have no COVID-19 symptoms and their LFD test remains negative. Being able to keep students in the classroom in the coming months is a government priority, as this will benefit their immediate and longer-term wellbeing.

### **Positive LFD Test Result**

Your child should self-isolate immediately if the LFD test result is positive. Further guidance can be found here. [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).

Isolation should be either for 5 full days starting from the date the LFD test was taken, or self-isolation can end earlier with additional LFD testing. From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January an LFD test can be taken on Day Five of isolation and if negative repeated 24 hours after on Day Six. If both results are negative and your child does not have a high temperature, then the self-isolation can be ended. Please ensure all the results are registered online.

Please remember that if COVID-19 symptoms of high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste develop during the seven-day LFD testing your child should start self-isolating immediately and book a PCR test.

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This can be arranged by visiting: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

The request for your child to take part in the close contact LFD testing applies even if your child has had a positive PCR test within the last 90 days, they will need to be re-tested and should continue to attend school unless their LFD test result is positive or have new COVID-19 symptoms.

**Information for children aged under 5 years**

Children under 5 do not need to take a COVID-19 test unless they have symptoms, but you should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19. Children in this age group are also exempt from self-isolation, however, if there is a positive test in their household it is advisable that they take a PCR test.

**Anyone in their isolation period, of any age must not leave home: do not go to school or leave the house for non-emergency reasons.**

Taking a COVID test is very important to help control this virus.

Thank you very much for your support.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Wightman  
**Director of Public Health**