



17 December 2021

## **Latest Guidance on Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

Dear Parents and Carers

As we go into the final days of what has been an exceptionally busy Autumn term we want to update you on changes to LFT testing that come into force on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and will remain in place into the new term until further guidance is issued.

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced. 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 our pupils in face-to-face education.

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

For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online). 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.

We would like for Parents and Carers to continue to support our efforts in reducing the spread of covid-19 by ensuring where possible your child has done a Lateral Flow test (LFT) before returning to school on Tuesday January 4<sup>th</sup>. For any of our pupils with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, the school will, as always, work with parents and carers to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing.

If you require any further information or support on this change to government guidance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Metcalfe  
**Principal**

