

15 December 2021

COVID-19 Testing for identified contacts

Dear families

Yesterday afternoon, the DfE confirmed in an email to leaders that from today, 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.**”

Please note: once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, children should:

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to the school.
- If the test is negative, attendance at school is expected.
- If the test is positive, please self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, your child no longer needs to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only needs to isolate if it is positive.
- Outside of school, please continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#).
- 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.
- For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, school will work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing.
- This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.
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For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

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

If you are unsure and need advice please call school and we will do our best to help and advise you.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and peaceful Christmas holiday. We finish on Friday 17th December at 3.15pm and re-open on January 4th at 8.25am.

Yours faithfully



Helen Haunch