

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you had a good Christmas holiday and I wish you all a Happy New Year. You may have heard various news reports about children's return to school over the past couple of days. Most of this new information is about changes to secondary school guidance, but I wanted to clarify the advice for pupils in primary school.

In the main, nothing has changed in relation to the current guidance. Pupils do not need to be contained in bubbles; the focus is on handwashing, cleaning and ventilation and ensuring children over the age of 5 remain at home and are tested should they have any symptoms. This may change on the advice of LORT should we have an outbreak. The main changes are in relation to isolation if a child is in contact with a positive case. This is the new guidance:

### **Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

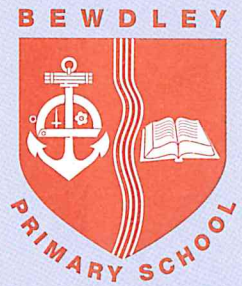
Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on **day 6 and day 7** of their self-isolation period. **Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.** 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 LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion.** If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

***If children do not take an LFD test on day 6 or 7 or the results are still positive or they have a temperature, they must continue to isolate for 10 days (longer if a temperature remains)***

### **Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19**

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to



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attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. 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, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

From a staff point of view, the DFE has reiterated its message for staff to wear face coverings in communal areas but not the classroom. Visitors in school will also be expected to wear a face covering.

The DFE has also suggested the following with regard to immunisation:  
**Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on COVID-19 vaccination for at-risk 5 to 11 year olds, and booster doses for at-risk 12 to 15 year olds and all 16 to 17 year olds**

On Wednesday 22 December, the government accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised shortly.

I hope this helps to clarify the advice and am hopeful we can continue with in-school teaching for the remainder of the term.

Kind regards

Jane Woakes

Headteacher

