

Contact of a Positive Case

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child has been identified as a contact of a positive case of COVID-19 within the school setting.

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

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a LFD test unless they are a contact of positive case within their own household, or they develop symptoms.

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. Your child only needs to have a PCR if they have **not** had a positive LFD **but do have symptoms**.

To book a PCR test please go to: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-PCR-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19)

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 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)

There are still simple things we can all continue to do to reduce the risk of spreading the virus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

There continues to be additional support for those self-isolating or vulnerable as a result of COVID-19 can be accessed through Here2Help:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> or 01905 768053 then press option 3. The Here2Help opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jane Woakes

Headteacher