



17/12/21

Dear Parents and Carers,

The advice for close contacts is changing and there are some significant changes for you to be aware of.

From today, Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – **whether Omicron or not** – should take an NHS **rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days** to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily rapid testing applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 jabs
- **all children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months**, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily rapid lateral flow testing.

People will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace by phone, email or text or they will receive a notification from the NHS COVID-19 app to tell them they are a contact of someone who tested positive and what action they need to take.

They will be advised to get a box of 7 lateral flow tests free of charge from NHS Test and Trace either through a local pharmacy, community test sites or home delivery by ordering online. People are encouraged to use the tests they already have at home before ordering more. People should take these tests from the day they are notified as being a contact and report their results to NHS Test and Trace on GOV.UK or by calling 119.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and book 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.

We are continuing to take all appropriate steps in school to keep everyone as safe as we can, but it is clear that at this time, that infection from COVID-19 is in our communities and the spread is likely to increase. We must all remain vigilant and do all we can to ensure that we minimise this spread as far as is possible. For this reason, please remember that if you come into the school building you should wear a face covering.

We hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the new-year.

Very best wishes,

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