

Friday 8th January 2022

Updated COVID19 Parent Information – *changes to testing*

Currently, if you are concerned that your child has COVID19 symptoms, the advice is to book a PCR test for them and keep them off school until you have the results to avoid any potential spread. A negative test result means children can attend school and a positive result would require them to isolate for 10 days, where we will provide home learning if they are well enough to access. Test results are usually returned within 24 hours so it is a very quick process to provide reassurance and reduce further spread across the community.

Lateral Flow tests can now be completed on Day 6 and Day 7 of isolation and if both are negative, the isolation period ends and they can return to school on day 8. If you are unable to do a LFT isolation continues for 10 days.

The government has issued new advice to schools regarding testing which begins on 11th January:

Asymptomatic staff and pupils who test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) on a lateral flow device (LFD) test will **no longer need to get a confirmatory PCR test.**

- Anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should [report their result on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test.
- The isolation period can start immediately following the positive LFD test result.
- After reporting a positive LFD test result, you must continue to self-isolate and you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that contacts can be traced.

Those children who have symptoms should access PCR testing. Rapid lateral flow tests are most useful at identifying COVID-19 in people without any symptoms. The tests are effective at finding people with high viral loads who are most infectious and most likely to transmit the virus to others. We know from experience that this can be later than a PCR detects the virus, so symptomatic children must access a PCR and not LFT.

Thank-you for your continued support and for being so prompt in testing children and isolating to keep the community protected. If you have queries about dates for isolation, support with home learning or access to technology and school meals, please do email or phone and we will be happy to assist you.

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