

26th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to update you on our actions to keep us all safe from COVID and to update on the ever-changing rules on testing and isolation. I know there has been some confusion about the use of PCR vs LFT so below we are able to clarify this for you.

We are once again seeing a rise in cases in the school and have several children who have had a positive LFT or are awaiting a PCR test result as they have symptoms.

We know how hard everyone has worked including you as parents to keep our schools open and thriving and we will continue to keep our 'systems of control' in place despite the change in DFE guidance. We have a duty of care to all members of our school communities and have risk assessments in place. Across the trust there are over 11% of teachers off with COVID related absence. The levels of infection among pupils is the highest we have seen throughout the pandemic and this is continuing to have a huge impact on children's learning despite the hard work of teachers and support staff.

Our 'systems of control include:

- 1: Regular hand washing throughout the day
- 2: Classrooms are well ventilated at all times. (CO2 monitors in all classrooms)
- 3: High touch areas are cleaned regularly.
- 4: Staff will continue to wear facemasks in communal areas around the school (not in classrooms).
5. Reduction of onsite visitors.
6. All staff test using the LFT twice per week and we would encourage families and children to do the same.

Covid positive self-isolation

You may have seen that Government have further updated its guidance regarding isolation and testing. The Government has now made further updates to the isolation period for those who have tested positive for Covid, to shorten the isolation period. This means that, those who have tested positive can take LFTs tests to see if they are able to end their isolation on day 7. If they have had negative LFT results on day 6 and then 24hrs later, on day 7, (and no longer have a fever), they can end isolation on day 7. This diagram outlines this change:

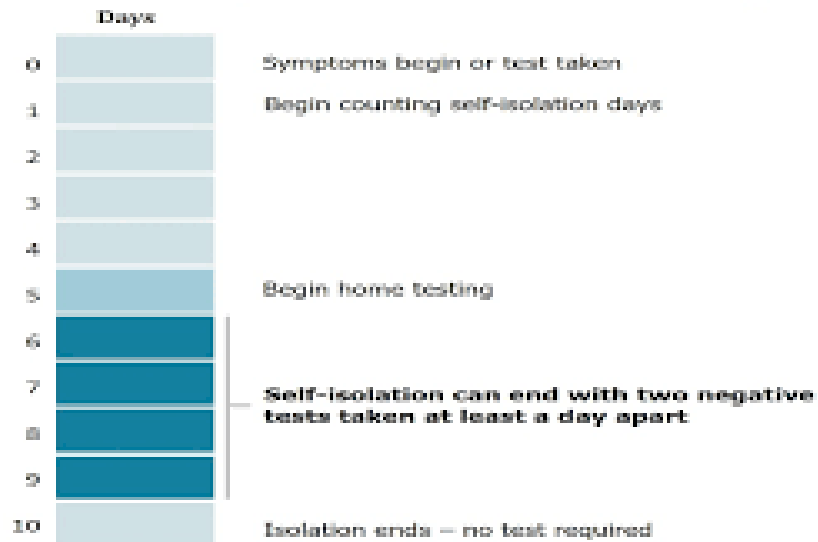


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How five-day isolation rule works in England



PCR Tests A further update:

Anyone who has a positive lateral flow test result for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a PCR test. **People with symptoms should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test as before.** We continue to ask parents to be vigilant for symptoms, as we all are at this time.

We know how much school closures and moving to remote learning affected all children and our main aim is to ensure school remains safe and that face to face learning is priority.

Please do contact us if you have any questions, queries or worries. We are here to help.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs L Secker

Head of Academy