

Wednesday 15th December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

New guidance has been sent to schools by the Department for Education about daily testing for contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID19.

From Tuesday 14 December, all adults who are fully vaccinated (2 doses), children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months and people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons who are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a Lateral Flow Test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. The aim is to help slow the spread of COVID19 and protect education settings by reducing transmission while helping keep pupils in face-to face education.

If undertaking daily LFT testing, all eligible staff and pupils (ages 5-18) should take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#). If the LFT test is negative, they can continue to attend school. If the LFT is positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests.

Please also continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December](#) press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January. Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case. For primary-aged children LFT kits are available from community test sites, local pharmacies or online. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or worries.

Kind regards,

Scott Nicholls
Head of School