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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well. We have had a really good start to the new term so please can I thank you for your support, especially with testing before your child returned to school.

There have been a number of recent changes to the COVID guidance for schools. For secondary school age students the following now applies:

PCR testing requirements

Any student who has symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend school. They should book a PCR test immediately and self-isolate until the result is confirmed.

Secondary school students should continue to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing with a lateral flow device. **LFDs should not be used for those who have symptoms.**

From tomorrow anyone testing positive with an LFD will **no longer need to confirm this with a PCR test.**

However, the LFD result must be reported to <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and the person must self-isolate immediately.

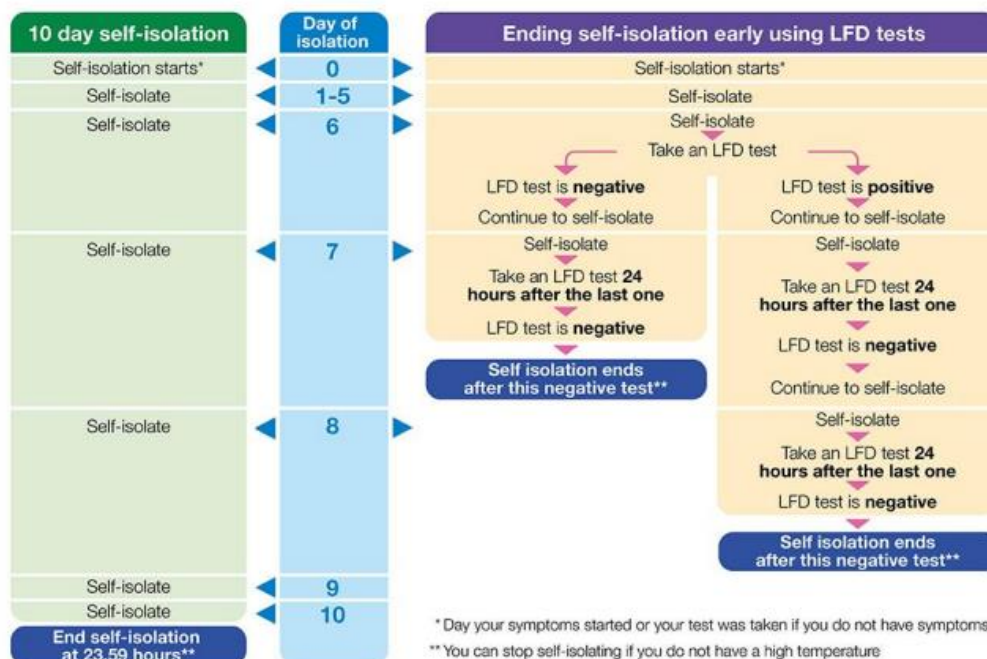
Self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Any student who has received a positive COVID-19 test result from either an LFD or PCR test must self-isolate at home for 10 days.

They may be able to leave the self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days by taking a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test from the **sixth day** of the isolation period, and a second LFD test taken **at least 24 hours** later. If both these test results are negative, and the child or young person does not have a high temperature, they can end their self-isolation after the second negative test result.

This diagram helpfully summarises the current government guidance:

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#what-has-changed>



Pupils who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case

All pupils aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are no longer legally required to self-isolate. They are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their education setting as normal unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms themselves.

Face coverings

As previously communicated, face coverings are to be worn by both students and staff in communal areas and classrooms. Unfortunately, large numbers of students regularly come to school without a face covering and the cost to school of providing face coverings is not sustainable. We would therefore be very grateful if you could ensure that your child comes into school with a face covering each day.

Vaccinations

Young people aged 12-15 will be offered the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine 12 weeks from their first dose. NHS England has confirmed that healthy school-aged children aged 12-15 will be able to receive their second dose in school this term, as well as those who didn't take up the offer of the first vaccine. Consent forms will be shared with parents later this week.

Parents and carers can also book first and second vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the NHS booking system linked here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Contingency Plans

We continue to keep our contingency plans under review. Unfortunately, if national cases maintain their present trajectory, we are anticipating substantial disruption to staffing and attendance over the coming half term. The health and safety and education of our students remain paramount. We will continue to work in close liaison with Public Health and the DfE during this period of potential disruption and appreciate your understanding if there are times when difficult decisions have to be made regarding some classes or cohorts. Remote education will continue to be in place, via Google Classroom, for those students who are isolating and who feel well enough to engage with this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs Ritchie
Acting Head of School