

December 2021

### **COVID-19 Testing for identified contacts**

Dear families

Yesterday afternoon, the DfE confirmed in an email to leaders that from today, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, “a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated **and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 whether Omicron or not should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.**”

Please note: once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, children should:

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to the school.
- If the test is negative, attendance at school is expected.
- If the test is positive, please self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, your child no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only needs to isolate if it is positive.
- Outside of school, please continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#).
- 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 students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, school will work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing.
- This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

**Children under five** do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 and do not need to isolate.



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