



Tuesday 14th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: COVID-19 update

Today will see another change moving forward under the Government's Plan B. From today, the rules around self-isolation will change for those people who have been in contact with someone that has tested positive with COVID-19.

The press release states:

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

People will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace by phone, email or text or they will receive a notification from the NHS COVID-19 app to tell them they are a contact of someone who tested positive and what action they need to take.

They will be advised to get a box of 7 lateral flow tests free of charge from NHS Test and Trace either through pharmacies or home delivery by ordering online. People are encouraged to use the tests they already have at home before ordering more. People should take these tests from the day they are notified as being a contact and report their results to NHS Test and Trace on GOV.UK or by calling 119.

Daily rapid testing applies to all contacts who are:

- **fully vaccinated adults** – people who have had 2 jabs or 3
- **all children aged 5 to 18 years** and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status (this is a change from previous guidance)
- people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily rapid lateral flow testing.

It would be advised (if you have them) to use the newer, nasal only, testing kits with children, rather than the older version which requires a throat and nose swab which could be used for adults in the household.

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If you, or your child, have a positive lateral flow test, then you should arrange a PCR test and isolate until the results come through. If they are negative, you should continue to do a daily lateral flow test and you can move about as usual. If it a positive result, you should isolate for ten days.

Track and trace remain the people to let you know if you need to self-isolate. However, it is very important to let us know of any positive LFT or PCR tests, so we can monitor numbers across the school. ***We have had a number of calls and emails concerned that we are not letting parents know of cases in a timely manner. We must make you aware that we are not privy to any parent WhatsApp groups and we rely solely on parents informing us directly, which in some cases is sometime after it has been announced on a parent group. When we receive the information, we act immediately.***

We have already activated our 'Outbreak Management Plan' and bubbles remain in place and we are in constant communication with Public Health Herts to ensure that we are adhering to all their advice and guidance.

Many thanks for your support and understanding - our staff are obviously anxious for their families and their Christmas as well and the messages of support we have received have been much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

T Skeggs

**Mrs T Skeggs
Executive Headteacher.**