

14 December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Following our recent suspected case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, late yesterday afternoon we received an update from the Department of Education (DfE) on the approach to cases in school. Whilst our recent case was in year 8, I thought it important to share with all parents this key information.

The information below comes directly from the DfE:

**Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

*From Tuesday 14 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. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19 and will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.*

*Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their school. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of school, they should 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.*

*If they test 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 test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.*

*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, schools should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing.*

*Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.*



If your child has been identified as a close contact for any COVID-19 case, then we ask that you follow this advice. This includes those contacted by the school on Friday. We recommend testing in the morning each day.

We will be distributing extra sets of testing kits before the end of term to ensure all students have a set of 7 lateral flow tests going into the Christmas holiday.

Many thanks for your continued support with the testing process. It is vital to help us reduce transmission in school and reduce disruption to both students education and the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke  
Head of School



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