

12th January 2022

Covid-19 Guidance Update for Parents / Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

There have been a lot of changes to the Covid-19 guidance over the past few days. I have summarised the changes below; I hope you find this helpful.

- Face coverings:
 - Face coverings now need to be worn in classrooms, corridors, as well as communal areas by all students and staff, unless they are exempt. Lanyards have been reissued to all students with a medical exemption.
- Testing if had a positive within 90 days:
 - Even if your son/daughter has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days, they are now encouraged to complete routine twice weekly LFD testing once their self-isolation period is over.
- Temporary Suspension of Confirmatory PCR Tests:
 - If you receive a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result, **but don't have Covid-19 symptoms**, you will be required to self-isolate immediately, but will NOT be required to take a confirmatory PCR test (this applies to those who don't have symptoms only). This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high, as the vast majority of people with positive LFD results are highly likely to have COVID-19 when there is a high prevalence of infection. Positive LFD test results should still be reported on the government website and the Academy.
 - If you have symptoms of Covid-19, you are still required to book a PCR test, despite the changes above.
- Positive contacts:
 - Students who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days. If this is a household contact, they should take daily LFD tests and stay at home for 3 days, if the LFD test on day 4 is negative they can return to school and continue to test until day 7. They don't need to take a PCR test unless they develop symptoms.
- 10/7 day self-isolation:
 - The 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances,

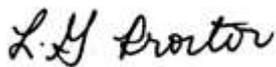
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unless you cannot test for any reason. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

- The guidance also clarifies that if you are testing from day 6 of a period of self-isolation:
 - you should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results taken 24 hours apart.
 - you should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your isolation period and you may stop self-isolating after this day, provided you do not have a high temperature. This is because you are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of your isolation period. Even if you have a positive LFD test result on the 10th day of your self-isolation period you should not take any more LFD tests after this day and you should return to school the following day.

I hope this helps clarify and summarise the plethora of updated info!

Yours faithfully,



Miss L Proctor
Principal