

# Ormesby Village Infant & Junior Schools Federation

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Dear Parents/Carers,

10.1.22

Please find below the latest information regarding COVID-19:

## **Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results**

Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) are routinely used to test asymptomatic people - this is not going to change. The rules on confirmatory PCR tests following a positive LFD test are going to temporarily change.

- Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow test result to be temporarily suspended from **11th January**
- COVID-19 prevalence is high which means the chances of a false positive from a positive LFD result are very low
- This approach reflects evidence on the very high accuracy of LFD testing
- Under the new guidance anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should continue to take a PCR test
- As this does not take effect until 11th January, [guidance](#) on central government websites may not reflect this change until 11th January.

From **11th January** in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

There are a few exceptions to this revised approach:

- People who are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment (TTSP) will still be asked to take a confirmatory PCR if they receive a positive LFD result, to enable them to access financial support.
- People participating in research or surveillance programmes may still be asked to take a follow-up PCR test, according to the research or surveillance protocol.

- Around one million people in England who are at particular risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 have been identified by the NHS as being potentially eligible for new treatments. They will be receiving a PCR test kit at home by mid-January to use if they develop symptoms or if they get a positive LFD result, as they may be eligible for new treatments if they receive a positive PCR result. This group should use these priority PCR tests when they have symptoms as it will enable prioritised laboratory handling.

In line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7.

Rapid lateral flow tests are most useful at identifying COVID-19 in people without any symptoms. The tests are over 80% effective at finding people with high viral loads who are most infectious and most likely to transmit the virus to others.

[Analysis by NHS Test and Trace](#) shows lateral flow device (LFD) tests to have an estimated specificity of at least 99.97% when used in the community. This means that for every 10,000 lateral flow tests carried out, there are likely to be fewer than 3 false positive results. LFD tests identify the most infectious people. These people tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them remains important.

### **Isolation rules for those testing positive**

It is now possible for those who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. 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. You should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of your isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation following 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion.

If you take an LFD test from the sixth day of your isolation period, and the test result is positive, wait 24 hours before you take the next test.

These rules are the same irrespective of your vaccination status.

LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even if you do not have symptoms.

If you are able to end isolation early you are advised to modify your activity during the remainder of the 10 days and remain cautious.

If you are isolating because of a positive test result but did not have any symptoms and you then develop [COVID-19 symptoms](#) during isolation, the period of isolation resets with day zero being the day your symptoms start. You should obtain a PCR test. You can arrange to have a PCR test by [ordering it online](#) or by calling 119.

The following guidance has more details and has been shared with you already on our social media page and on our designated COVID-19 Information page on our websites;

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

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

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days (or for 10 days if they live in the same household as a positive case from the start of

their isolation period) and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

The DfE have also produced a [15 minute video on the topic of daily contact testing](#), this video confirms that those who have previously tested positive in 90 days will still be requested to daily test if identified as a close contact of a positive case by NHS Test & Trace.

Anyone aged over 18 years and 6 months and not fully vaccinated, will not follow the guidance above and are legally required to self-isolate as per [government guidance](#).

Thank you for your continued support and understanding, as we all work together to keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely,

Bradley Young  
**Headteacher**

