



Ref: NCS/ssd
Wednesday, 2 March 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this email finds you well. As you will be aware, as part of their Living with COVID strategy, HM Government has updated their guidance regarding regular testing and self isolation for positive COVID-19 cases.

The most relevant key points for schools and colleges are as follows:

- If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 (a recent onset of a new continuous cough; a high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell) you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you wait for the test result.
- Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFT test from five days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both of these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.
- Children and young people who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend their education setting as normal.
- Students in mainstream schools are no longer advised to carry out Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) twice a week. However, students in Specialist Resource Provisions should continue to do so.

Consequently, we are asking that students who have COVID-19 symptoms remain at home and not come into school whilst they await the results of a PCR test. Students with a positive test should stay at home for ten days or until they test negative for two consecutive days from day five, whichever is sooner. We ask that parents/carers follow the usual absence procedures to report their child absent.

Students in the Speech and Language Unit and Hearing Impaired unit are still encouraged to take twice weekly LFT. We will continue to distribute tests to these students on a regular basis. However, students outside of these units are no longer advised to take twice weekly tests. Therefore, we will no longer be distributing LFT to students.

A limited number of LFTs will be available at reception for families to collect should they wish to use from day five, following a positive PCR test. As we are no longer receiving large quantities of these tests, we are unable to guarantee that they are available for families. In the event that they run out, they can be ordered online via the NHS here:
<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support during these challenging times.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Smith', written in a cursive style.

N Smith
Head of School