



Friday, 10 December 2021

### **Advice to All Parents – Covid 19 – Outbreaks and use of lateral flow devices**

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately, we have an increasing number of positive cases of COVID-19 within the school setting. **Under current guidance, we do not report every case to the school community. However, where there is a suspected 'outbreak', defined as 10% of a given group (e.g. a class), we will communicate this to the school community with the relevant guidance.** We are following the government guidance closely and are in contact with local public health representatives to confirm we are taking the appropriate actions to reduce risk of transmission.

### **Actions following an outbreak**

For children in a class with a confirmed outbreak, there is an increased chance of the children being a close contact of a confirmed case. They should, therefore, take a **PCR** test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test) or by calling 119. **When ordering a PCR test it is important to check the box (online) or tell 119 'I've been told to get a test by my health protection team' and not 'I've been told to get a test by my school or nursery'.** Further guidance can be found at [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-tracing-for-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus). Whilst waiting for a PCR test / PCR test result, your child should still attend school unless they develop covid symptoms.

### **Use of Lateral Flow Devices**

We have an increasing number of parents reporting positive results from lateral flow tests on children. It is important to **follow up any positive lateral flow result with a PCR test to confirm the LFD result.** It should be noted that the primary purpose of lateral flow testing is a **'fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus'**. They cannot be used to confirm a negative case; i.e. if a child has COVID symptoms, they must have a PCR test to confirm whether they are positive or negative – an LFD cannot be used for this purpose.

The government guidance concerning this is as follows:

- If you did a rapid lateral flow test and the result was positive:
  - self-isolate straight away – children must not attend school following a positive LFD test
  - get a PCR test (a test that is sent to a lab) to confirm your result as soon as possible – [get a PCR test to check if you have COVID-19 on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test)
  - Continue to self-isolate until you get the result of the PCR test. Follow the advice you're given when you get the result.

As always, thank you for your support in helping reduce the risk of transmission in school and the community.

Yours sincerely

*J. Himsworth*

Jez Himsworth - Deputy Head