

# COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers from 23rd December 2021

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a child/young person please follow the flow chart below

SUSPECTED case if child/young person has COVID-19 symptoms

## Key symptoms:

- A new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

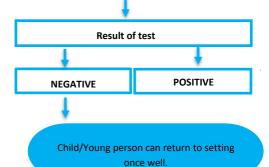
Additional symptoms that may be early warning signs of Covid-19 in children include upset stomach, headache, sore throat, unusual fatigue.

Book a **PCR test** as soon as possible online via the website <u>www.nhs.uk/coronavirus</u>. Alternatively, a PCR test can be ordered by phoning **119** for those without internet.

Ensure child/young person isolates at home until the test result is known. The rest of the household does **<u>NOT NEED</u>** to isolate if they are:

- Under 18 and 6 /months, or
- Fully vaccinated, or
- Part of a Covid Vaccine trial, or
- Exempt for other reason

If none of the above apply, then household contacts must isolate until test result.



CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive PCR Test

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive LFD Test

Positive LFD Result

Take a PCR test WITHIN 2 DAYS of positive

LFD - Online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or

Child/young person and any unvaccinated

adults who are close contacts must selfisolate whilst waiting for the PCR test

Inform setting of positive LFD

by phoning 119.

result.

## Positive PCR Result

Inform the setting of positive PCR. Ensure child/young person isolates at home for **7** days. They should take LFD tests on days **6** and day **7**, at least 24 hours apart, and if both tests are negative, they can leave self-isolation as soon as they have a negative result from the second test provided they do not have a raised temperature.

If they decide not to carry out LFD testing or if they have a raised temperature on day 7, then they should continue with their self-isolation for the **full 10 days**. Children aged 0 to 5 years should isolate for 10 days but parents have the discretion of doing LFD tests on Days 6 & 7 if they want their child to end isolation earlier.

#### Negative PCR Result

Child/young person and unvaccinated adults who are close contacts can stop isolation and can return to the setting. Restart twice weekly LFD home testing in secondary aged pupils.

## **Contacts of Positive Cases**

Household/close contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18 years 6 months should do **daily LFD tests for 7 days.** The daily LFD should be done before leaving home for the first time each day. If during this time the LFD test is positive, the individual must self-isolate and arrange a PCR test. Children aged 0 to 5 years who are contacts of someone who tests positive are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily LFD testing. They will be advised to take a PCR test if they are a household contact.

Household/close contacts only need to self-isolate for 10 days if they are over 18 years & 6 months <u>and</u> have not been fully vaccinated. **Unvaccinated adult household/close contacts must isolate for 10 days.** 

If anyone else in the household becomes unwell and tests positive for Covid-19 the positive person will need to restart/start their isolation. The rest of the family who have been isolating, do not need to extend their isolation period.

- With the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron Variant, we continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear face coverings (if aged 11 and over) in crowded public indoor areas, maintain distance, get vaccinated and take LFD tests prior to meeting people outside your household.
- Face coverings are to be worn by everyone over the age of 11yrs unless exempt on transport to and from educational settings.
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available within 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for theresult.
- If you have previously received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result within the last 90 days and you are identified as a contact of
  someone with Covid-19 you should not take a PCR test. You should only take a PCR test if you develop any NEW symptoms of Covid19 or if you have a positive LFD test result, or if you are required to take a PCR test upon entry into the UK.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms. If you have symptoms always book a PCR test.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy. They are not recommended for children under 5 years of age but can be used at
  parent/guardian discretion.
- If you have had a Covid-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing, use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test. Always follow the
  instructions on the pack as there are different types of LFD tests.