

# A new approach to close contacts – ‘serial contact testing’\* Test and Trace

## Printable guidance for Schools and Colleges

A new approach known as ‘serial contact testing’ has been developed to help find more asymptomatic cases. This will allow those (pupils/students and staff) who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school/college. If they agree to be tested for 7 days\* following their last contact with a positive case.

**IMPORTANT:** If, at any point, a student/pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.

I want to take the daily test...

A close contact of my child **at school / college** tested positive, what are my options?

You'll need to take a lateral flow test at the start of each day for **7 days\***

You can choose to opt out from daily testing at any time and self-isolate.

I'd rather stay at home...

If you do not wish to be tested daily or are unable to be tested for any reason, you must self-isolate in accordance with [national guidance](#) until 10 days after the person they are a contact of tested positive

If your lateral flow test is negative

Continue with your normal activities until your next test is due.

If your lateral flow test is positive

Follow [the national guidance](#), and take a confirmatory PCR test, self isolate until the result of your PCR test is available.

Any new positive cases during serial contact testing will reset the clock for the serial contact testing (daily testing) to the start of 7 days,

If your PCR test is positive

Complete 10 days self isolation. All other identified close contacts and household members of this positive case will now also follow the [national guidance](#).

If your PCR test is negative

Continue with your normal activities until your next LFD test is due.

\*If the participant cannot take a test (e.g. on the weekend), they should self-isolate for that day, and resume serial contact testing on their return to school / college. If they return after the 7 days are finished, then they should take one test to complete the self-isolation period, and if it is negative they can return to school/college and their testing period is complete (even if they have not taken 7 tests in total).

