



Chesterton Primary School

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Interim Head Teacher: Mr Richard Martin



January 17th 2022

Dear parent / carer,

You are probably aware of some updates to Covid-19 isolation periods, which have come into effect today. Last week, we had twelve reported cases of Covid-19 in children; four of these were recorded on Friday. Many of you will have seen letters from me to advise of isolation periods and testing schedules. The Department for Education and Local Education Authority deem children and adults in the same class as a positive case as 'close contacts'. This means that those people should complete Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing each day for seven days.

There is a real possibility that a class of children could have at least one child testing positive for Covid-19 for several weeks. If half the children in a class test positive over the course of a half term, it would mean that every other child in that class would need to complete LFD tests every day for a minimum of seven weeks. This is the guidance. As a school, we cannot enforce this testing, but know that we can count on your support to do the right thing for your children and the school community. For the sake of everyone, we want to catch as many positive cases as possible. Testing will support this and we encourage regular testing for all those identified as close contacts of a positive case. We trust you to manage the best schedule of testing for your family and our community.

The advice from today is summarised here:

The requirement to isolate for 10 days remains, however from 17th January, a person with COVID-19 (a case) may take an LFD test on the fifth and sixth days of their isolation period. If both these LFD test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they will be able to end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. The LFD tests must be taken on consecutive days but the guidance will no longer stipulate that these tests should be taken at least 24 hours apart. This will shorten the minimum possible self-isolation from six full days (current guidance) to five full days.

If your child experiences symptoms of Covid-19, you can still arrange for them to complete a PCR test. However, from my conversations with Public Health England I understand that a positive LFD test can now confirm a positive case in any circumstance. If you record a positive LFD test, please report it using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Reporting these cases will help ensure an accurate record of positive cases. You will also have the chance to provide the details of close contacts.

I have included on the next page an infographic from the BBC, which helps to understand the new rules. Day zero is the day when symptoms were first experienced, or when the positive case was taken if asymptomatic. Isolation is now anywhere from five full days and ten full days, depending on your testing schedule and the negative results being returned. Children can return to school after a second negative test so long as they do not have a temperature. Testing negative on day five, then again before school on day six, would see a child leave isolation and return to school on day six. We may ask you to show us evidence of the negative testing. This is a safety measure to ensure positive cases do not return to school before they are safe to do so.



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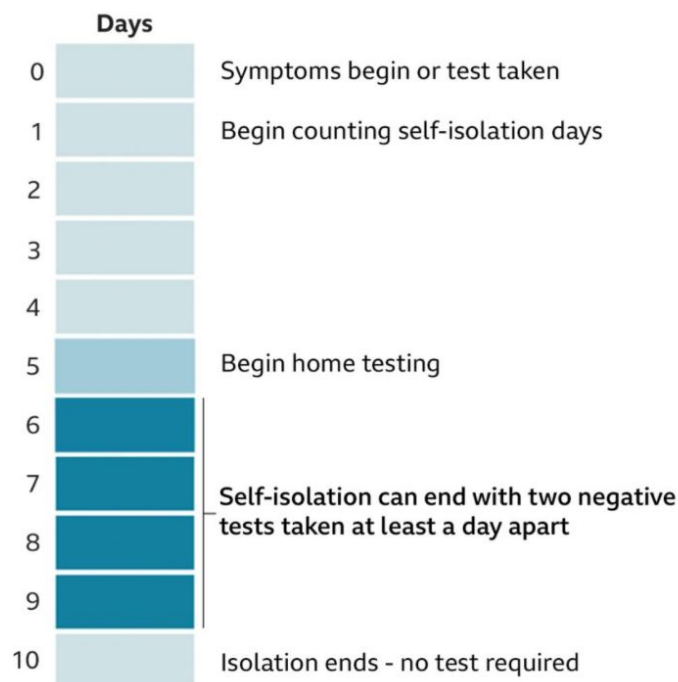
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How five-day isolation rule works in England



Also included, as a separate page after this letter, is a document providing examples of isolation periods, from five days through to ten, and how to use the LFD testing.

When there is a positive case in school, we will advise parents and carers via Parent Mail. This will simply be a short piece of text to inform you of a positive case in your child's year group. Upon receiving this message, you should then follow the information contained in this letter and on the www.gov.co.uk website pages.

Should you have any queries, please contact the school office or let me know at drop-off or pick-up. I am hoping that, following this letter and the contained information, we can ensure you are made aware of cases quickly and that you can access the information and support you need in order to respond.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Martin
Interim Head Teacher

Changes to Isolation Periods – 17th January 2022

The isolation period is still 10 days but can be reduced to **5 full days** (as long as your child is well enough and without a temperature) and receives **2 consecutive negative** LFD results. The earliest they should take the first LFD test is on day 5.

Any **positive test** after a first **negative test** would mean that the first negative is **null and void**. This would **reset** the isolation period and your child would still require 2 consecutive negative tests from this point forward. You must register results with the [NHS Website here](https://www.nhs.uk) and you must e-mail both those results to school. You can order a pack of [LFD tests here](#).

Anyone who tests positive must isolate for a full 5 days.

Scenario 1 A negative test on Day 5 and then Day 6. Isolation ends on Day 6 once the 2nd LFD test is negative.

Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day Zero is the day symptoms started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero.					Negative LFD	Negative LFD				

Anyone who tests positive must isolate for a full 5 days.

Scenario 2 A negative test on Day 6 and then Day 7. Isolation ends on Day 7 once the 2nd LFD test is negative.

Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day Zero is the day symptoms started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero.					Positive LFD	Negative LFD	Negative LFD			

Anyone who tests positive must isolate for a full 5 days.

Scenario 3 A negative test on Day 7 and then Day 8. Isolation ends on Day 8 once the 2nd LFD test is negative.

Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day Zero is the day symptoms started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero.					Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Negative LFD	Negative LFD		

Anyone who tests positive must isolate for a full 5 days.

Scenario 4 A negative test on Day 8 and then Day 9. Isolation ends on Day 9 once the 2nd LFD test is negative.

Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day Zero is the day symptoms started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero.					Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Negative LFD	Negative LFD	

Anyone who tests positive must isolate for a full 5 days.

Scenario 5 A negative test on Day 9 and then Day 10. Isolation ends on Day 10 once the 2nd LFD test is negative.

Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day Zero is the day symptoms started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero.					Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Negative LFD	Negative LFD

Anyone who tests positive must isolate for a full 5 days.

Scenario 6 Isolation will end at 11:59pm on day 10 so no need to test as child can return on Day 11.

Day Zero	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day Zero is the day symptoms started or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic. Day 1 of isolation is the day after Day Zero.					Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Positive LFD	Positive LFD	

In any scenario, the isolation period can only end if your child no longer has a high temperature. This applies even if they have tested negative twice. If children still have a high temperature after Day 10, they should stay off school and seek medical advice such as contacting your GP or phoning 111.