



De La Salle School

Headteacher: Mr P Norris L.LB (Hons), MA, NPQH

10th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Update to Covid-19 procedures

As you will be aware from recent coverage in the media, there have been some changes to the procedures relating to Covid-19. I would like to take an opportunity to clarify these changes and remind you of the procedures in place for positive results.

Removal of confirmatory PCR test

The requirement for confirmatory PCR tests is to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results. From Tuesday 11 January 2022, in England, people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test - these rules have not changed. Children awaiting a PCR result should NOT attend school while waiting for the result.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result should report their result on www.testregister.co.uk AND Gov.uk and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced and must continue to self-isolate.

Track and Trace

You are already aware that schools are no longer responsible for track and trace communication. People testing positive are required to provide details of close contacts for follow up by the NHS Track and Trace service. If your child is in this situation - please provide as much information to the Test and Trace service as possible. If you become aware of a confirmed case and believe your child is a close contact - do not wait to be contacted by Track and Trace - commence daily LFD testing immediately.

Remember that students are no longer required to self isolate if they are a close contact, but should ensure that daily LFD tests are carried out for seven days and reported in the usual way.

ALL members of the school community are strongly encouraged to ensure that they are taking part in regular LFD testing as previously requested, regardless of contact with a possible confirmed case or not. Covid-19 infection is currently very high in the community and there have been a number of positive cases in the school community. Please ensure that you continue to take part in the regular asymptomatic testing at home.

Reduced isolation period

In line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive will be able to leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7. The [DfE guidance](#) has also been updated in line with the UKHSA announcement, and clarifies that children can return to school after day 7 if they have had two negative LFD tests.

Thank you for your continued support. We continue to follow the Government guidance rigorously. Enhanced ventilation, cleaning and hand hygiene measures remain in place. Face coverings remain mandatory in all areas. Thank you to all families ensuring that students attend school with their own face covering, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Norris
Headteacher