

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

## COVID-19 Updates 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, I wish you all a Happy New Year! I hope that you have enjoyed some festive fun, family time, rest and celebrations over the past two weeks. I am looking forward to seeing you all back at school on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**.

The Department of Education (DfE) has sent all schools an update today regarding return-to-school information. I have highlighted the main updates to share below – some of our families will be familiar with the daily testing update, which was shared with them in December.

### Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19:

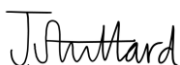
Since Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the 10-day self—**isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances**, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take **lateral flow (LFD) tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period**. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these tests are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8 (the day that symptoms started is classed as 'day zero'). Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

### Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19:

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as **a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal**, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. Children under 5 are not being asked to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, they should limit their contact with anyone who is at a higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result.

Please note that Calderdale Public Health may also send out additional recommendations based on local infection rates. Additionally, you may find this link useful to [order lateral flow \(LFD\) tests](#). As ever, please keep our school office informed if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or if there is a positive PCR test in your household. We will continue to do everything we can to support you. I will also continue to communicate any updates with you as soon as I receive them. With best wishes,



Jamie Stuttard, Principal