

9 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Coronavirus Update

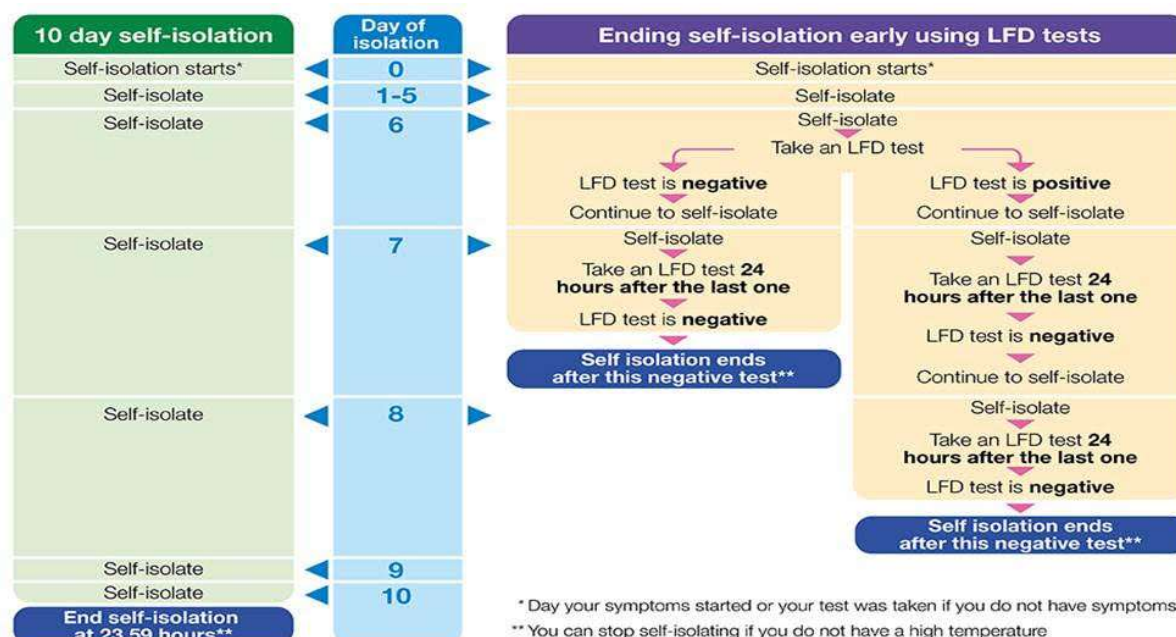
Further to my letter sent during the Christmas holidays, and some new guidance which was received a few days later, I wanted to write to provide you with an update to our Coronavirus guidelines.

Testing:

We were delighted with the take-up of in-school tests which took place on Wednesday and Thursday. Lateral flow testing is vital in detecting asymptomatic cases of COVID and we encourage **all students** to test at home **twice per week**, then report their results to the NHS and to the school via tests@gps.hslt.academy We have ordered more lateral flow tests which will be distributed as soon as they arrive in school. If you wish to test your child at home and have not given consent for home testing, you can do so here: <https://forms.gle/oCzjdKeJkGRLXoXo6> If you have previously given consent, there is no need to complete the form again. **If your child tests positive, please inform the school by phone on 01723 582194 as well as by email.**

Self-isolation for positive COVID cases:

Students can now take an LFD test from 6 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end self-isolation immediately after the second negative test result. They should stop testing after they have had 2 consecutive negative test results and can return to their education setting on the 7th day if they have tested negative in the morning. The flowchart below explains how self-isolation now works:



* Day your symptoms started or your test was taken if you do not have symptoms

** You can stop self-isolating if you do not have a high temperature

Email: tests@gps.hslt.academy

Website: gps.hslt.academy



If students are required to self-isolate, they can access work using the Google Classroom platform. We do have devices in school which can be borrowed for self-isolation as well as for homework and revision; if your child requires a device please email news@gps.hsit.academy

Close Contacts:

Students who have been identified as close contacts by someone who is positive with COVID, and who have been contacted directly by NHS Test & Trace, are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact as schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.

PCR Confirmatory Tests:

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. **If your child tests positive, please inform the school by phone on 01723 582194 as well as by email.**

COVID Antibody Survey:

As many of you know, our school is taking part in the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey 2 (SIS2); this is a national study that will help experts understand how many school pupils have developed antibodies against the virus, how this changes over the course of the year and how the pandemic has affected our pupils. If you would like to take part in the survey and missed round one of testing, then it is not too late; you can still enrol online by following this link <https://studies.ons.gov.uk/s/JXTECK/>

I do appreciate that there is a lot of information in this update; guidance appears to be changing on a daily basis and we aim to communicate this to you as soon as practically possible. We hope that by following these guidelines, we can keep as many students in school as possible and thank you for your cooperation in helping this be the case. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh

Principal | George Pindar School