



Hanley St Luke's C of E Aided Primary School

Learning, Laughing, Loving at Family St Luke's

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10th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: COVID UPDATE and CLOSE CONTACT ADVICE

You will be aware that COVID cases are high in England and in our city. Schools are no longer responsible for advising parents of close contacts of a positive case as that is the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. However, we will advise the affected year groups wherever possible to try to reduce the spread.

Currently we have 3 case where close contact will have occurred for some pupils in Y1, Y3 & Y6 and therefore we would ask parents to be alert to symptoms. Anyone officially identified by NHS Test & Trace as a close contact would be asked to do a daily lateral flow test for 7 days so parents of children in these year groups may wish to consider this where tests are available (we are aware there are shortages).

From tomorrow, 11th January, the government has made further changes around testing and extracts from the UK Health Security Press Release are set out here for your information ([Full text here](#)) :

*Lateral flow tests are taken by people who **do not** have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 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**.*

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

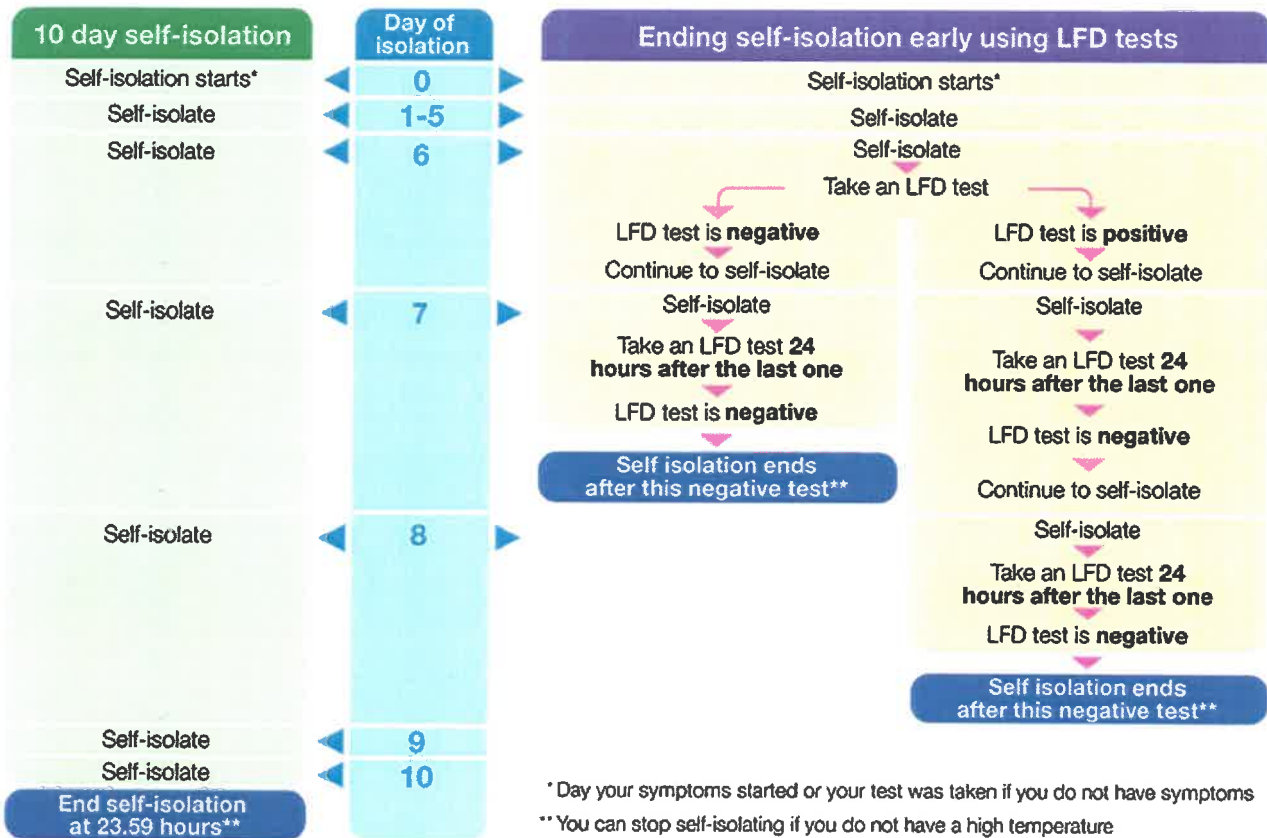
This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should [report their result on 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.

The rules for isolation if you or your child test positive have also changed and you can find them here: [Isolation Rules](#). However, this infographic is useful:

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



Whilst we are all weary of testing and isolation, I must urge all parents to ensure that they comply with these requirements so that we can try to protect the face to face education of your children and prevent having to revert to any kind of remote learning for classes or year groups. Only by following the rules do we stand a chance of achieving this.

Thank you for your continued cooperation,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Williamson
 Head Teacher

