

Isolation Rules for Close Contacts Outside of School

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may have heard on the news, the rules for isolation following contact with a positive case of Covid-19 have recently changed. To begin with, I must make clear that the content of this letter refers to **contacts outside of school** (e.g. family members and friends from sleepovers or play dates etc.) not contact that has taken place within school. **There has been no change to the close contact guidance within school.**

If a child is identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19, they still do not need to isolate however, now, children over the age of five are required to undertake **daily lateral flow tests for 7 days**. The full guidance from the government is available here:

[Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person) and [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-infection).

A summary from Leeds City Council can be found below with appropriate links:

Persons exempt from isolation as a close contact [e.g. children under 18 but over the age of 5]:

- Take an **LFD test** (before they leave the household for the first time every day for **7 days**, or until **10 days** since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. Results should be reported via the [Online Reporting System](#) and to the school setting. If they test **negative**, they can continue to attend school. This approach should also be adopted on return in January.
- If they test **positive**, they should self-isolate and order a **PCR test** to confirm the result. If the **PCR is positive**, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the **PCR test is negative**, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to **carry out the remainder of the daily tests**, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Where do pupils get test kits?

1. For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).



Therefore, to summarise, if your child has had close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 (e.g. they live with someone who has Covid-19 or they have spent a period of time with someone who has Covid-19) **they should take daily lateral flow tests for 7 days** or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive, if this is earlier.

If your child is a close contact, please inform the school office and we can provide further information on how to report these daily results.

Please remember that in all cases, if your child displays any of the Covid-19 symptoms, a PCR test should be booked and a lateral flow device should not be used.

Many thanks

Mr. Field

Head of Primary