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Monday 13th December 2021

Updated COVID Guidance

Good morning all,

The press release just issued has added detail to the change in advice **from tomorrow Tuesday December 13th** and reflects some significant changes.

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 - **whether Omicron or not** - should take an NHS **rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days** to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily rapid testing applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults - people who have had 2 jabs
- **all children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months**, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily rapid lateral flow testing.

This means that if you or your child has had contact with someone who has tested positive inside or outside of school they will need to be tested daily. If they are well they should be in school. Children do not need to isolate.

Home Test Kits are free and readily available from supermarkets and pharmacies.

Remember these tests **SHOULD NOT** be used on children with symptoms, if your child is unwell, you must book a PCR test. Please note that if your child tests positive we will ask for the confirmation dates from Test and Trace, this is not to 'check up' on you, so if we office staff ask for this, please do not be rude to them, they are just making sure we have the correct information to log as we no longer receive information directly from Test and Trace. Any questions, please ask.

Try not to worry, we currently only have 5 children absent from school today who have tested positive. Many children are testing but just have regular coughs, colds and bugs as they normally would at this time of year.

Since the outbreaks in Year 3 and 5, we have had no more further cases and children are well and back in school after their isolation period.

We currently have 3 positive cases in Year 1 but all are isolating and well and it appears that the transmission has come from outside of school where a family had tested positive.

I understand you are concerned in the run up to Christmas, not wanting anyone to be unwell or isolating but I can reassure you that we are doing all that we can at this time to keep everyone safe. We are in strict bubbles and children and staff are not mixing, children are eating in their classes, regularly washing hands, not sharing equipment. The staff are completing enhanced cleaning checks and testing daily too.

We want our children to really enjoy these last few precious days in school, they have already had so much disruption and lost learning and social time. If we can keep them all in school and healthy and well before we finish on Friday, I would be so happy!

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Morris