

Appendix 1(b): Guidance for managing Covid-19 in schools flow chart and guidance for Parents

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a child/young person please follow the flow chart below

SUSPECTED case if child/young person has COVID-19 symptoms

- Key symptoms:**
- A new continuous cough and/or
 - high temperature and/or
 - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Book a **PCR test** as soon as possible online via the website www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. Alternatively, a PCR test can be ordered by phoning **119** for those without internet.

Ensure child/young person isolates at home until the test result is known. The rest of the household does **NOT NEED** to isolate if they are:

- Under 18 and 6 /months, or
- Fully vaccinated, or
- Part of a Covid Vaccine trial, or
- Exempt for other reason

If none of the above apply, then household contacts must isolate until test result.

Result of test

NEGATIVE **POSITIVE**

Child/Young person can return to setting once well.

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive PCR Test

Positive PCR Result
Inform the setting of positive result. Ensure child/young person isolates immediately.

Ensure child/young person isolates at home for **5 full days**. They should take **LFD tests on days 5 and day 6**, and if both tests are negative, they can leave self-isolation **provided they do not have a raised temperature**. If LFD is positive on day 5 or 6, repeat LFD after 24 hours and continue repeating till 2 consecutive LFDs are negative or till Day 10. If your child has a raised temperature after Day 6, they should isolate even if the LFD test is negative. If they decide not to carry out LFD testing they should continue with their self-isolation for the **full 10 days**. Children aged 0 to 5 years should isolate for 10 days but parents have the discretion of doing LFD tests on Days 5 & 6 if they want their child to end isolation earlier.

Contacts of Positive Cases

Household/close contacts who are fully vaccinated or under 18 years 6 months should do **daily LFD tests for 7 days**. The daily LFD should be done before leaving home for the first time each day. If during this time the LFD test is positive, the individual must self-isolate as a positive case. Children aged 0 to 5 years who are contacts of someone who tests positive are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily LFD testing. They will be advised to take a PCR test if they are a household contact.

Household/close contacts only need to self-isolate for 10 days if they are over 18 years & 6 months **and** have not been fully vaccinated. **Unvaccinated adult household/close contacts must isolate for 10 days.**

If anyone else in the household becomes unwell and tests positive for Covid-19 the positive person will need to restart/start their isolation. The rest of the family who have been isolating, do not need to extend their isolation period.

CONFIRMED case(s) following a Positive LFD Test

Positive LFD Result
Inform setting of positive LFD. Ensure child/young person isolates immediately. **There is no need to take a confirmatory PCR test if LFD test is positive.** Parents/guardians should report positive LFD test result <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> for contact tracing.

- **With the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron Variant, we continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear face coverings (if aged 11 and over) in crowded public indoor areas, maintain distance, get vaccinated and take LFD tests prior to meeting people outside your household.**
- **Face coverings are to be worn by everyone over the age of 11yrs unless exempt on transport to and from educational settings.**
- **Secondary school pupils to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas.**
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available within 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have previously received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result within the last 90 days and you are identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 you should not take a PCR test. You should only take a PCR test if you develop any NEW symptoms of Covid-19.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms. If you have symptoms always book a PCR test.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy. They are not recommended for children under 5 years of age but can be used at parent/guardian discretion.
- If you have had a Covid-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing, use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test. Always follow the instructions on the pack as there are different types of LFD tests.