

6th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you and your families have thoroughly enjoyed the festive period and the welcome break it afforded us all.

I really hope that 2022 allows schools to continue with current guidance and over the coming months rates of transmission reduce and we all see things begin to return to normal. However, it is possible the next few weeks are going to be quite testing and challenging. We have plans in place for different situations that might arise in January, please rest assured our priority is to ensure the safety of our community whilst maintaining the very highest standards of education and the most inspiring and enriching experiences for our pupils.

There have been some changes to self-isolation guidance, which is detailed below and I have included information on remote education and staffing for reference.

Confirmatory PCR tests temporarily suspended for positive Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test results

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.

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.

Self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

The self-isolation period for people who record a positive LFD test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, are encouraged to take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

Tracing close contacts

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the parent of the positive case to identify close contacts. 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.

School continues to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

Remote education

Our remote learning can be found on our school website: www.chadsmeadacademy.co.uk
The Department for Education recognises that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of staff. Our shared priority is to keep education settings open and children and young people continuing face-to-face education. Where workforce issues arise, we may use staff more flexibly where required, or consider combining classes.

If there is a need for remote education, we hope to follow the Remote Learning Plan available on our website: <https://www.chadsmeadacademy.co.uk/web/introduction/518531>
All children would receive this. This is of course dependent on staffing.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Grainger
Headteacher