



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

17th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please see the below information regarding testing and isolation. This information includes the updates that were made to the guidance on the 14th December 2021.

What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test (LFT) is positive?

Please inform the school on absence@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk. Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or within 2 days of the positive LFT test result). To book a test, call 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. When booking a PCR test, we would recommend choosing to visit a drive-through test site, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

At the time of writing, if the PCR test returns a positive result, your child will need to isolate, in line with government guidance (current 10 days isolation), along with any adults who are not double-vaccinated. Other siblings over the age of 5 and double-vaccinated adults (older than 18 year and 6 months) are strongly advised to take daily LFT for 7 days (from the date of the PCR test result) and continue to attend school/work providing they have a negative result from the LFT that morning. The daily testing by LFT needs to be reported to the NHS and also to the school on absence@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk.

For pupils where daily testing by LFT is not possible, please contact the school on 01438 72699 and ask to speak to Anne Smart to discuss next steps.

If at any stage you get a positive LFT result, please follow the guidance above.

Lonsdale is able to provide LFT kits for all pupils. Therefore please contact the School on LFT@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk if you require further test kits.

If the PCR test returns a negative result, all those who were having to isolate can return to school/work. Those who were testing by LFT daily, can stop and revert back to twice weekly testing as encouraged by the government.

What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test is negative?

Pupils will be able to come to school and resume their activities as normal. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for any reason.

What if a close contact tests positive?

If this happens, NHS Test and Trace will be in contact and you will be informed through the NHS test and trace.

Please note that voluntary LFT testing for 7 days now replaces a follow-up PCR test for close contacts for children (over the age of 5 years) and adults (over the age of 18 years and 6 months) who are fully vaccinated. LFT should then be taken daily and, providing the result of the LFT is negative, those individuals will be able

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to attend school/work. Adults (over the age of 18 years and 6 months) who are not fully vaccinated will have to isolate in line with the Government guidance (currently set at 10 days). Children under 5 years old are not expected to undergo daily testing and are not required to isolate.

If a pupil is unable to LFT but have been identified as a close contact, please contact the school on 01438 726999 and ask to speak to Anne Smart.

If at any stage you test positive with a LFT, please refer to section titled "What happens if the result of your Lateral Flow Test (LFT) is positive?" above as to next steps.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The Lateral Flow Test home testing kits are for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste), they must immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

If the result of the PCR test is negative, but your child still has symptoms, they may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or stomach bug. Your child should, in these situations, stay at home until they feel well to prevent the passage of viral illnesses. If your child has had diarrhoea or vomiting, then please wait a further two days after they are feeling better before returning to school.

Please note that this guidance is only correct at the time of writing. Therefore, please familiarise yourselves with the most current guidance, which can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Andrew Perrett
Assistant Head

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