



Blackburn Central HIGH SCHOOL

**Blackburn Central
High School**
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FAO: Parents and carers with clinically vulnerable children

Dear parent or carer,

Thank you for your ongoing support to keep our school community safe.

As you are aware, we have all worked hard during the pandemic to mitigate the risks within our setting. The pandemic is not over and with the emergence of the new, more transmissible Omicron variant we are seeing case numbers rise and therefore we all need to take extra steps to be careful and to manage and mitigate risks to keep our school community safe.

It is with this in mind that I need to make you aware that we have a confirmed positive case of coronavirus (COVID-19) at school.

I have identified that your child is likely to have mixed closely with an individual who has had a positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19). In line with the new national guidance, close contacts do not need to self-isolate but are strongly advised to take lateral flow tests (LFTs) **before coming to school for 7 days** as a precautionary measure. This letter is to recommend that your child takes those tests **before attending school each day**. Please note that this is a request and not a requirement. However, if your child has [symptoms](#), you should book a free PCR test for them.

What is meant by “mixed closely”?

For early years, close mixing could include being in the same nursery class, being in a friendship group who often play together or be staff and children taking part in the same activity session together.

For older pupils, close mixing could be a class, form group or subject class, a friendship group mixing at break times, a sports team or a group in an after-school activity

My child has recently had COVID-19 should they have a test?

In line with the new guidance any child age 5yr -18 yrs 6 months who is a close contact of a positive case is strongly advised to take a **lateral flow test for 7 days** even if this is within 90 days of a positive Covid test result. Lateral flow tests are unlikely to return a positive result once self- isolation has been completed.

Aspire and achieve

They should **not have a PCR test** if they have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days **unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19**. This is because it is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

What happens if the LFD test result is positive?

If the test returns a positive result you must let us know immediately and follow the national [stay at home guidance](#). You should also report the test result at: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

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.

In certain circumstances, children who have tested positive can return to school following negative LFD test results on day 5 and then again 12 to 24 hours later on day 6. However, I am asking that any positive cases from this class complete the full 10 days self-isolation as we have clinically vulnerable children/staff in this class who are at greater risk of serious illness if they contract COVID-19. This is in line with the current "[Stay at Home](#)" guidance as follows:

If both your LFD test results are negative, it is likely that you were not infectious at the time the tests were taken. To further reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others, if you end your self-isolation period before 10 full days you are strongly advised:

- ***to limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces***
- ***to work from home if you are able to***
- ***in addition to venues where it is a legal requirement, to wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people***
- ***to limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19***
- ***to follow the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#)***

You should follow this advice until 10 full days from when your self-isolation period started.

Please note that if your child was asymptomatic when they had their positive LFD result, then goes on to develop COVID-19 [symptoms](#) within their isolation period, [they do not](#) need to start a new 10-day isolation period.

Where can I get Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs)

Lateral flow tests can be ordered online [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or picked up for free from most local pharmacies.

Where can I get a PCR test?

Home PCR testing kits are available by calling 119 or there are further details of local test sites on the Council website: [Test, trace, self-isolate | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](#)

Is there financial support for self-isolation?

Details of support can be found on the Council website: [Support for residents | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](#)

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shame Hussain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs S Hussain
Headteacher