



Blackburn Central HIGH SCHOOL

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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.

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.

Aspire and achieve

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.

Individuals can take an LFD test from 5 days after the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day 12 to 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end self-isolation after the second negative test result. This also applies to children under five, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 6.

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.



Mrs S Hussain
Headteacher