

13th December 2021

COVID-19 Update: Change to Guidance

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your ongoing support with the changes to guidance. I want to begin by thanking you for responding to our requests last week to return to masks in the playgrounds and any other measures we have asked you to take.

We wanted to advise you of some new guidance considering the significant rise in Omicron cases in the UK. It is expected that the new variant will be dominant by mid-December and this new guidance is intended to reduce the impact on everyday lives.

From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated (and children aged 5 - 18.5 years, regardless of vaccination status) and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Those who test positive or develop symptoms will need to self-isolate.
- Unvaccinated adults must continue to self-isolate for 10 days if they are a contact of someone with COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated adults are not eligible for this new daily testing policy, they must self-isolate for 10 days if they are a contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 – Omicron or not.

This new guidance aims to reduce pressures on people's everyday lives by replacing the requirement for Omicron contacts to isolate for 10 days, while protecting the public by identifying asymptomatic cases and stopping the chains of transmission. Testing daily will also help us understand how and where the virus is spreading.

You will continue to be contacted by NHS Test and Trace by phone, email or text and will receive a notification from the NHS COVID-19 app to tell you that you are a contact of someone who tested positive and what action you need to take.

You will be advised to get a box of 7 lateral flow tests free of charge from NHS Test and Trace either through pharmacies or home delivery by ordering online. You are encouraged to use the tests you already have at home before ordering more. You should take these tests from the day you are notified as being a contact and report their results to NHS Test and Trace on GOV.UK or by calling 119.

You can find further detail here: [Daily rapid testing for COVID-19 contacts launches this week - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week)

Thank you for your support.



Tracey Cleverly
Trust Lead