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UPDATE TO INFORMATION SHARED PREVIOUSLY WITH PARENTS (NOVEMBER 2021)

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been a large increase in the number of children and young people in County Durham testing positive for COVID-19 and the highest case rates are in school age children. You will be aware that we have had to put some measures in place as we have a number of staff and children testing positive.

Children, who have tested positive, will be contacted via Tapestry to set activities if they are well enough to complete in line with our Remote Learning Guidelines.

We will endeavour to continue to keep classrooms open but there could be times where we do not have staff well enough to continue with face to face teaching.

LFD Testing advice

We would recommend you have a supply of LFD testing kits at home in the event you are requested to use them. You can order home testing kits to be delivered to your home here www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Or you can collect LFD kits at Community Collect sites across the County. To find your nearest collection point please enter your post code here maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

If you pick up tests from a pharmacy, you may be asked for a 'collect code' this helps the NHS match your details to the tests. To get a 'collect code' please visit test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits

Please register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. Book a free PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test . If positive, your child should isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111.



If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 full days from the date the positive test was taken. You must always register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Those who have tested positive can provide a negative Lateral Flow Test on Day 5 and Day 6 (from 17th January 2022) to be released on Day 6 from isolation (tests taken on Day 5 and Day 6 must be 24 hours apart). They must continue to isolate if their Day 5 and Day 6 Lateral Flow Test is positive (up to 10 full days).

Help, support, and further information.

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

We will also continue using the same strategies that have been in place during the Autumn term:

- The use of face coverings for visitors (unless exempt)
- Staggering start times for the beginning of the school day (Please remember 8.30am for Nursery children and their siblings, 8.35-8.45am for surnames A-M and 8.40-8.50am for surnames N-Z)
- Grouping of pupils in school by class or year group to reduce mixing
- School events to move to a virtual/different format to prevent additional footfall on the school site
- Additional attention will be given to ventilation, cleaning and respiratory and hand hygiene

Finally, we would like to thank you for everything that you have done to keep your family and community safe. We would also like to take the time to thank you for your patience in continuing to support our school during this challenging time.

Bernadette