



11th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Below please see the latest guidance from the Department for Education in relation to PCR testing and Lateral Flow Testing.

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore do not need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- *have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)*
- *wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment*
- *have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group*
- *have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme*

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case, as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From today, Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

We would appreciate receiving a copy of the email you receive when you log a positive test on the NHS website from a lateral flow test. This will help us to manage our attendance records and work out when learners should return to school.

It will be important that throughout this half term we all continue to test twice weekly. This will help prevent the spread of any new infection.

I appreciate your ongoing support. I will update you fully on the start to the new term in my letter at the end of this week.

Yours sincerely

L Cummins