



## West Kirby Primary School

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31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are still experiencing a higher number of Covid-19 cases in our school compared to before Christmas. This reflects the current situation within our Wirral Community where case numbers are also high.

We are doing as much as we can in school to ensure that the children are safe and that contacts are kept to a minimum where possible without impacting on the children's education. We regularly review our Covid Risk Assessment and implement our Covid Management Plan when necessary.

**In order to help us identify any positive cases as quickly as possible, please can we ask that you continue to test regularly within your households using the Lateral Flow Tests, even when there are no symptoms.**

The current Government Guidance states that where there is a positive Covid case within a household all members of that household must test for at least 7 days after the positive case is identified. Children are not required to isolate if they are negative. Please carry out the Lateral Flow Tests **before your child attends school each morning**. If your child is negative and not unwell, they can continue to attend school. To order Lateral Flow Tests [Click Here](#)

If anyone in your household has any of the main symptoms, which we all know very well (high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to smell or taste) please book a PCR test as soon as possible [Click Here to book a PCR test](#)

As I have mentioned in my previous letters, we are seeing children who are unwell with many other symptoms and these children are then testing positive on Lateral Flow Tests. These symptoms have included – headaches, sore throats, aching, tiredness, vomiting, diarrhoea and a runny nose. I can't emphasise enough, if your child is not well, please test your child **before they come to school** and continue each day while they are feeling unwell.

Since we have had access to Lateral Flow Tests there have been different brands, and with this comes different instructions. Please ensure that you are referring to the instructions within the box that you are using. Some of the tests produce a result in 15 minutes and some produce a test in 30 minutes. It is important that we obtain the results after the correct time otherwise we may have incorrect information.

The last thing we want to do is have classes reverting back to Online Remote Learning due to a high number of cases or not enough staff to cover classes. It is increasingly difficult at the moment to obtain supply teachers and supply teaching assistants from the agencies that we use. This is a national issue, not just Wirral or our school. It is always our aim to provide consistency in any class; however, at the moment this is sometimes not possible. Therefore, please bear with us if there seem a few changes within your child's class.



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The flow diagram below outlines the steps that should be taken if you or your child tests positive.

### Ending self-isolation early through lateral flow testing

Self-isolation can be reduced from 10 to 5 days if you have 2 negative lateral flow tests (on days 5 and 6). This explains the process:

#### DAY 0

- Self-isolation starts on day 0. This is the day when you developed symptoms or had a positive lateral flow or positive PCR test.

Days 1-4 continue to self-isolate.

#### DAY 5

- Continue to self-isolate and take a lateral flow test at home. You must stay at home whether you receive a positive or negative result.

#### DAY 6

- Take another lateral flow test at home 24 hours after the test you took on day 5.

#### If you test positive on either day 5 or day 6

- If you receive a positive result on any of the lateral flow tests you must continue to self-isolate.
- You can continue to test daily from day 6, 24 hours apart.
- If you receive two negative tests in a row (24 hours apart) you can end your isolation early, as long as you don't have a high temperature. E.g. if you test negative on day 7 and day 8, you can leave self-isolation on day 8 after the negative result.
- If you test positive on all tests after day 6, you must continue to self-isolate for the full 10 days, with your isolation finishing at 11:59pm on day 10. (Unless you have a high temperature).

#### If you test negative on day 5 AND day 6

- If you have taken two tests 24 hours apart that are both negative you can end your self-isolation period early, as long as you don't have a high temperature.

If you leave self-isolation on or after day 6 you are strongly advised to:

- Limit close contact with other people in crowded and indoor spaces.
- Work from home where possible.
- Minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness.
- Wear a face covering (unless exempt) and keep a safe distance from others.
- Regularly wash or sanitise your hands.



**Keep Wirral Well**

We appreciate that the guidance changes regularly. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs E Bailey  
Headteacher