

# Whitstable Junior School

Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DB

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Dear Parents and Carers

## **COVID Guidance Update**

I just wanted to update you on the latest guidance schools received last night.

**The guidance states that school staff and pupils who are identified as a Covid contact should take a daily lateral flow test and only attend if they test negative.**

From today, anyone identified as a Covid contact will be expected to take a week of lateral flow tests **regardless of whether it is the Omicron variant or not.**

### **Does this apply to all school-age pupils?**

The government guidance says that the new national approach applies both to adults who have been double vaccinated and children and young people from the age of 5 to 18.

School-age pupils of 5 and over and staff who are double jabbed will be expected to take daily tests if they are identified as Covid contacts.

It does not apply to unvaccinated adults who are expected to self-isolate.

### **What do school staff and pupils need to do if they are a Covid contact?**

Once identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an lateral flow device each day for seven days and report the results through an [online reporting system](#) and to their schools. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.

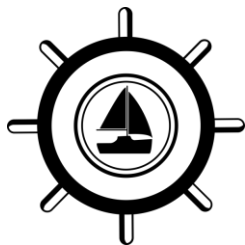
### **What happens if you test positive on a lateral flow test?**

Anyone who tests positive with a lateral flow test will be expected to self-isolate and then take a more reliable PCR test.

If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily rapid lateral flow tests, and only need to isolate again if this returns a positive result.

The Department for Education says that primary aged children can access lateral flow tests from community test sites, local pharmacies or online.



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## How long will this system be in place for?

The email to schools says that this national approach will be placed until the end of this term and approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

Schools have not been given the task of contacting close contacts however we will continue to inform you if there has been a positive case in your child's class.

As you know we have reverted to class bubbles this week and will continue to use the other systems of control to attempt to limit any transmission of the virus as the safety of our school community continues to be a priority.

Kind regards,  
Annie Knoupe  
Headteacher

