



1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

### Year 9 Learning Group 7

Dear Parent / Carer

We have been made aware of confirmed positive cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) at St Laurence School.

We have followed the national guidance and, following a risk assessment with Wiltshire Council Public Health advisers, have been informed that this may indicate an outbreak. This means that we are required to take additional actions to prevent further spread of infection.

Due to the number of cases in your child's **Year 9 Learning Group 7** we are advising that only this Learning Group undertake voluntary **daily rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing each morning at home before they attend school until Tues 8th February. Your child, if negative, should continue to attend school as normal.**

Whilst daily LFD testing is not mandated, it has been advised by the public health professionals as an additional supportive measure during this outbreak. We appreciate your support in this joint effort to minimise the disruption to your child's education and reducing the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

We have provided your child with the LFD tests, however they are also available via community testing sites [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Wiltshire Council](#), local pharmacies or you can order [online](#) for home delivery.

LFD tests should only be used by people without symptoms of COVID-19. If your child's LFD test is negative, and they remain without symptoms, they should attend school as usual. If the test is positive please inform us immediately through the student absence line on 01225 309501 or [attendance@st-laurence.com](mailto:attendance@st-laurence.com), isolate at home and report [online](#) or by calling 119.

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

If your child develops [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home until the result is known and they are fever free (without medication) for at least 24 hours. This is the case **even if** they have previously tested negative on an LFD or PCR test.

- If negative, your child can end self-isolation and return to school once well.
- If positive, your child should isolate as a positive case (see below).

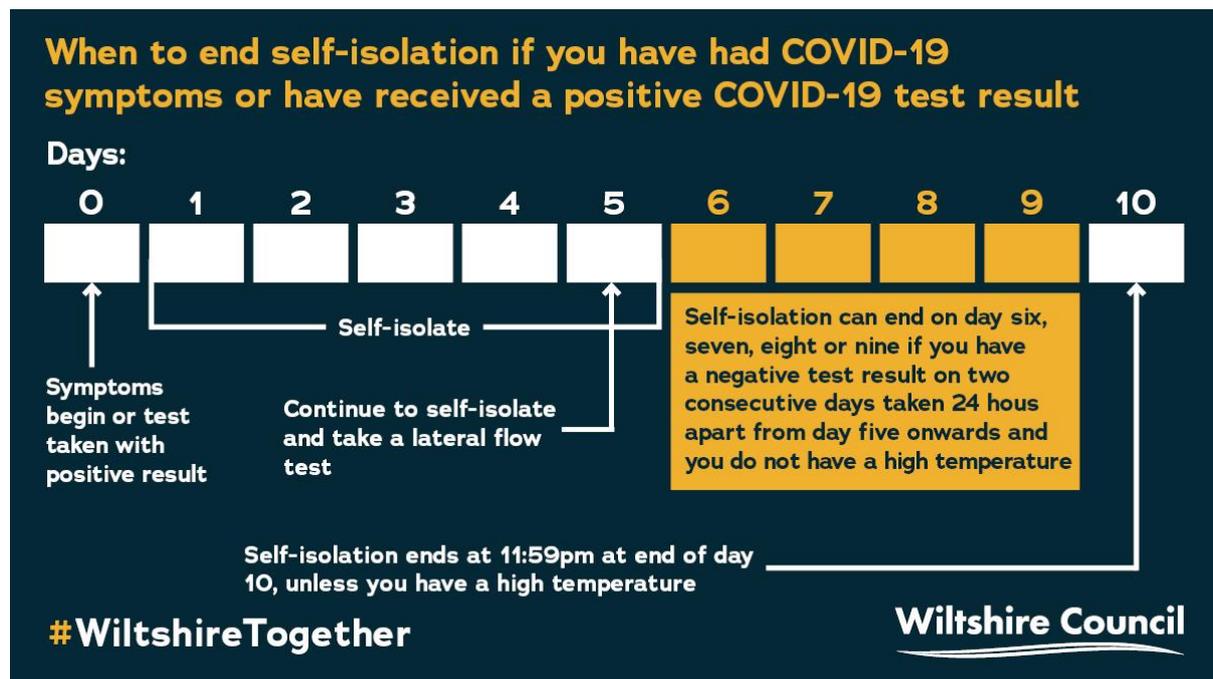


People who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate at home until they are well (48 hours fever free) and either:

- a) 10 full days have passed, or
- b) they have produced **two negative LFD tests at least 24 hours apart**, with the first taken **no earlier than day 5**.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the NHS website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. If your child does not have symptoms, count the day they took the test as day 0. If they subsequently develop symptoms shortly after a positive LFD test, a further PCR test is not required and the isolation period will be based on the original positive LFD test.



**Note:** Lingering coughs and changes to smell/taste are *not* a sign of ongoing infectiousness, so children can return to school if they have ended their self-isolation period (see above).



## Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting test result)

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing, **advised to take extra caution**, and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19.

[You are not required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine (note this is currently under review and may be updated to include a booster dose in due course).

In line with national guidance for households with COVID-19 infection, household and other close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should undertake daily LFD testing for a period of 7 days (or for 10 days from their last contact with the positive case). This is recommended for all close contacts who are not required to isolate aged 5 and over. Students were issued with test kits on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, LFD tests are also available via community testing sites [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Wiltshire Council](#), local pharmacies or you can order [online](#) for home delivery.

Children aged under 5 who are close contacts are not required to isolate and do not need to take part in daily LFD testing. If a child under the age of 5 lives with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 they will be advised to avoid contact with those at a higher risk of severe illness from contracting COVID-19 and to take a one-off PCR test as soon as possible.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and is not deemed to be fully vaccinated, will still be required to self-isolate as a household contact of someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing or someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read [the stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who need to self-isolate as close contacts should not go to work, education and childcare, or public areas. Exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with tasks such as essentials or food shopping and collection of prescriptions, you should ask friends or family from outside your household or order online. If you do not have access to the internet or people to help, you can contact the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub to request help. Simply call 0300 003 4576 or email [wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk). The Wellbeing Hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm.



You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. If you are required to stay at home and self-isolate, or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate, and you are working on a low income and will lose pay because you cannot work from home or are in receipt of benefits, you may be eligible for a one-off self-isolation payment of £500 as part of the government's Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. For more information visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-test-and-trace](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/benefits-test-and-trace) or call either 0300 456 0110 or 119, or email [benefits@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@wiltshire.gov.uk).

Those who were previously considered [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

If you have any health-related questions relating to COVID-19 or pre-existing conditions, please contact NHS 111 or your GP.

## Instructions for household contacts not required to self-isolate

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#).

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community:

- If aged over 5 years, test daily using LFDs for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier.
- limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces (when not in school)
- wear a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces (including school or public transport) and when you are in close contact with other people
- limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
- Follow the guidance on [how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

You should follow the above advice for at least 10 days.

If you are a health or social care worker or student undertaking a work placement who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance](#) available that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings.

If you develop symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

***For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.***



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## How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#).
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Kind regards

Tim Farrer  
Headteacher