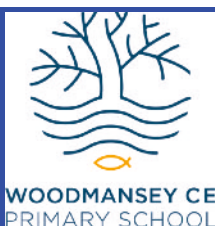


TESTING NEWS 2

7th January 2022 Volume 5 Issue 9



This newsletter is posted on the website: www.woodmanseyprimary.school

From the website it is possible to click on the **SCHOOL BLOG** which is an online photographic diary of life at the school



From 17th January 2022, the government has announced **another change to Covid testing arrangements.**

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Friends, Staff and Pupils

Changes are in **RED**.

Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID 19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. There is a temporary removal of the need to take a PCR test to confirm Covid 19 infection; a positive LFD test is sufficient to start the isolation period.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Therefore, if there is a case in your child's class (this will be communicated by the daily email) you should start the daily LFD testing for 7 days.

You may choose to conduct daily LFD tests anyway, but there are reports of supply issues.

If someone has recovered from Covid within 90 days they should also still take the LFD Test. This is because LFD tests indicate if an individual at the time of testing is infectious. A PCR test however should not be taken until after 90 days of a previous infection because this test can pick up residual antibodies and a positive test PCR test in this circumstance may indicate “had” the virus rather than “has” the virus.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in the school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, the person will be sent home and the individual should follow public health advice.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result, stay at home and self-isolate.

If you are notified by NHS Test and Trace of a positive test result you must complete a period of self-isolation. Your isolation period starts immediately from when your symptoms started, or, if you do not have any symptoms, from when your positive LFD or PCR test was taken, whichever test was taken first. Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 23:59hrs on the 25th of the month.

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia (loss of sense of smell), which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from **4 days after the day** your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result.

You should not take an LFD test before the **fourth** day of your isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation after you have had 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. You should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results.

This guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), you may take daily LFD tests from the **19th** of the month. If your LFD test results are negative on the **19th and 20th**, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your isolation period after the negative test result on the **20th** of the month.

If both your LFD test results are negative, it is likely that you were not infectious at the time the tests were taken.

Yours sincerely



Michael Lancaster

Executive Head Teacher

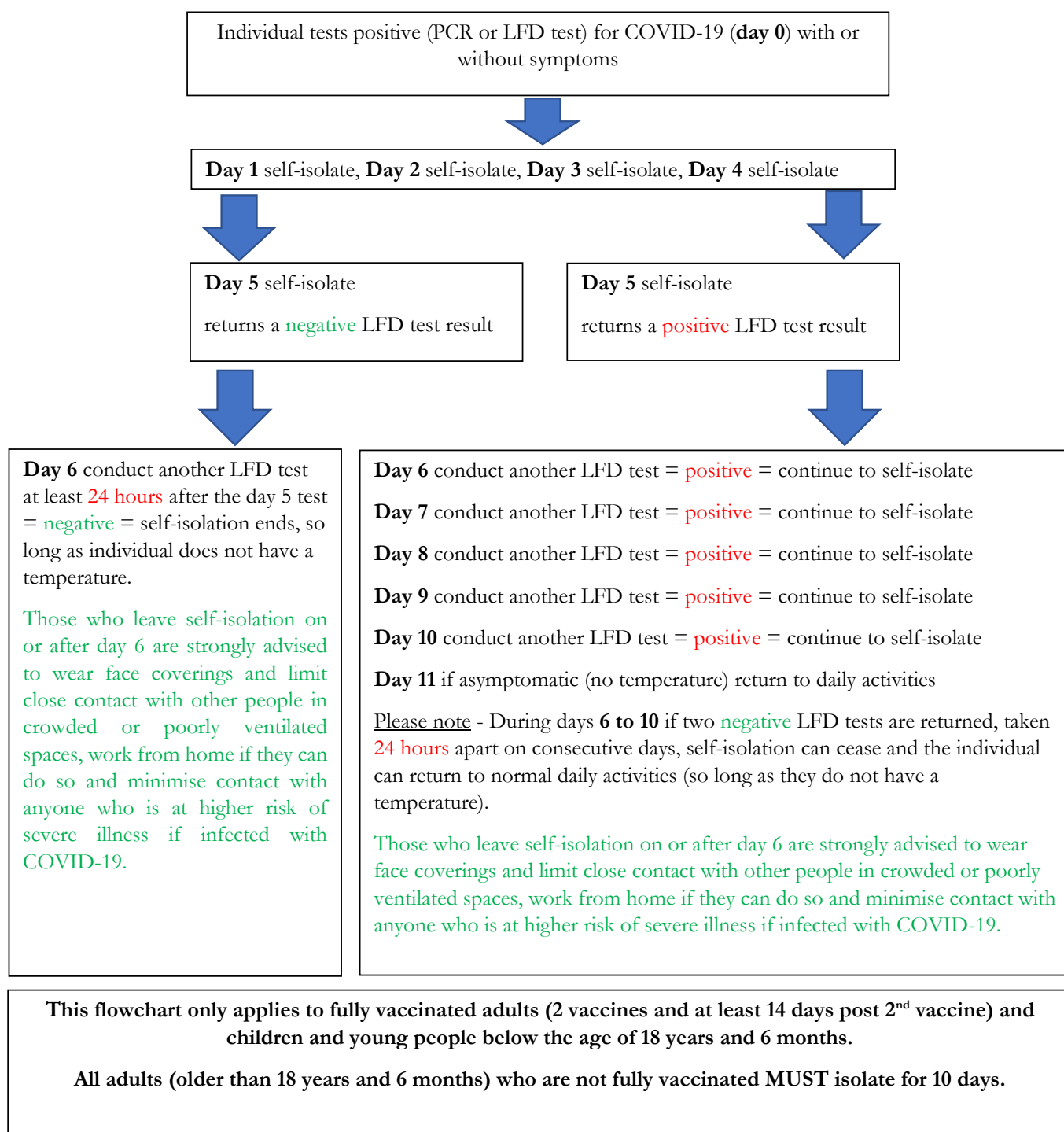
PS. I am informed that millions of test kits are on the way to pharmacies etc.

However, if you are feeling totally bamboozled by it all; and many of us are; you might enjoy this little bit of humour, predicting a future SATs question.

“If Harry was exposed to Covid in Tuesday and had no symptoms four days later and he got it from Olivia who caught it at a party three days before Harry tested positive five days later, how likely is Harry’s little brother going to test positive on an antigen test if he tests two days after Harry tests positive?”

Overleaf however, is a flow chart from the Local Authority, which is probably our best guide to the situation.

New Government Advice Regarding Testing and Self-isolation Periods



Please note where reference is made to testing this should be done early morning to allow ceasing self-isolation (where appropriate).