

Advice around COVID Testing, 7th January 2022

Please take time to read over this advice, taken from the Highland Council Position Statement, 6/1/2022 which has been reviewed to take into account the emergence of the Omicron variant AND FURTHER SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES..



1. The use of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home testing by secondary pupils and all school staff, is an additional measure to help manage associated risks. All pupils were offered Lateral Flow tests before the holidays, and we would encourage all pupils to take a test before returning.

Our School will continue to make every effort to distribute test kits proactively and regularly to staff and secondary pupils in line with the updated guidance for the programme, and encourage participants to test and report results regularly, including over holiday periods and in advance of return.

2. At-home testing using lateral flow devices will identify asymptomatic individuals in school so that they and their close contacts can self-isolate, minimising the likelihood of passing on the virus. This will help further reduce risks in school, and enhance the confidence of school communities.

Key points

These changes apply from 5th January and should not be applied retrospectively.

If children or staff have Covid symptoms they should book a PCR test, irrespective of the results of an LFD test.

Positive Cases (regardless of vaccination status)

1. Positive cases

- must isolate for 10 days unless
- LFD tests negative **on day 6 and day 7** (taken at least 24 hours apart, with the first test no earlier than day 6) they may leave isolation if they have no symptoms after their day 7 test.

High Risk Contacts who are Fully Vaccinated Adult Contacts (3 doses)

High Risk Contacts who are aged under 18 years and 4 months

2. take 7 daily LFD tests and report results **instead of isolating**
3. no requirement for a PCR test to be released from self-isolation.
4. children aged under 5 are encouraged, but not required, to take LFD tests

High Risk Contacts who are Unvaccinated/Partially Vaccinated Adult Contacts (less than 3 doses)

5. must take a PCR test and isolate for 10 days.
6. The previous risk-informed approach within schools will continue to apply. That is that, all potential contacts (whether defined as high- or low-risk) will be identified and provided with appropriate, proportionate advice on the action that should be taken in the following ways:
7. Test and Protect will, through the contact tracing system, identify those contacts where there is a higher risk of transmission and ask them to follow the appropriate steps based on NHS guidance (self-isolation and/or daily LFD testing dependent on age and vaccination status)
8. Other low risk contacts will be identified by schools when they are informed of positive cases, and sent information letters that advise them to take certain mitigating actions. These actions do not require self-isolation, but include important advice on LFD testing and other mitigating actions.

As soon as schools are informed of a positive case they should take action to identify low risk contacts so they can issue them with a targeted information letter the same day that sets out the actions those low risk contacts should take.

Low risk contacts are most likely to be:

- Pupils sitting close to a confirmed case
- Potential contacts within a class or classes
- Those on a school trip

If you are deemed to be a low risk contact, the school will issue an information letter should be issued by the school. This letter states that low risk contacts should take precautions to limit any potential spread., such as staying vigilant for symptoms, taking an LFD test before returning to the school environment and to continue with a regular LFD testing programme.

If you have any further concern or questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

Tony Breen, Head Teacher