

**5th January 2022**

**Dear parents,**

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and Santa came. As we begin another year we are faced with more challenges specifically around Covid-19. As I’m sure you are aware Covid-19 is still very prevalent in our community. We will do our best to keep the school safe and open but we will need your help and support to do this.

If your child has any symptoms, please do not send them to school until you have followed all the advice outlined below. This variant is extremely transmissible and we don’t want anyone to become ill if we can avoid it at all.

This advice is the most up to date advice we have been given, but may change at any time. As I’m sure you are aware advice from DENI can sometimes lag behind the PHA.

**School age children and unvaccinated adults who are close contacts of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19.**

You are advised to isolate and take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as possible.

If this is negative you can stop isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case.

The lateral flow should ideally be taken before you leave the house for the first time each day.

If any lateral flow test is positive you should isolate immediately and book a PCR test.

If at any time- you develop symptoms, you should isolate immediately and book a PCR even if the lateral flow test is negative.

## Close contacts of COVID-19

If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, self-isolation and testing requirements will depend on whether you’re fully vaccinated, your age and where you work.

A close contact can be:

* anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19

or

* anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 with a PCR test:
  + face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
  + skin-to-skin physical contact for any length of time
  + been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
  + been within two metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
  + travelled in the same vehicle

Thank-you so much for your understanding and consideration.

Kind regards,

Mrs Helen Ingram