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Important information for all parents

16/1/22

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know there has been a significant increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community.

Whilst schools are no longer required to undertake detailed contact tracing for cases of COVID-19 (unless in very exceptional circumstances), **following discussion with the North Yorkshire Public Health team we have been advised to recommend that all children undertake daily lateral flow testing for 7 days from today as it is likely that they have been in close contact with a positive case.** We are also waiting for advice from the public health team on any further actions we need to take.

I would ask parents to support us by undertaking the LFD testing before you send your child to school tomorrow and by remaining vigilant around the symptoms outline below.

If your child tests positive then they should self-isolate for 10 days as per government guidance but they do not need a confirmatory PCR test **unless they have symptoms. If your child is symptomatic, they do still need to undertake a PCR test.**

They can end their isolation from Day 6 if they have tested negative on a lateral flow test (LFD) on day 5 & day 6 (tests must be 24 hours apart). If you do not have a negative result on day 5 & 6 you should continue to test until you have two negative tests, or you reach day 10, whichever is soonest.

Anyone who has tested positive on a PCR test in the last 90 days is not required to have a further PCR test unless they develop new symptoms. However, they should continue with regular lateral flow testing. Additional lateral flow tests can be ordered online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapidlateral-flow-tests>, or by calling 119. They can also be collected from many local pharmacies. PCR tests can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. A list of local testing facilities and opening times is available here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-testing>

Test and Trace may be in touch with you in the coming days if your child is directly identified as a close contact by the case, but as a school we will not pass personal contact details on to the cases. Children who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 are no longer required to isolate unless they develop symptoms.

The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 remain a fever (temperature 37.8°C or higher), a new continuous cough, or a change to/loss of taste or smell. **However, other commonly reported symptoms of recent variants include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms**, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek further testing if you are in any doubt.

Kind regards
Sarah Taylor
Headteacher