



**Hinckley**  
ACADEMY

Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre

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10th January 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. Following our letter last week regarding the latest Government guidance which was released on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January, we wanted to give you further updates regarding COVID-19 and attendance.

### **Compulsory attendance for all students**

The Government has made it clear that school attendance remains compulsory for all students and it is a priority to ensure that as many students as possible regularly attend school. Therefore, we wish to clarify the changes coming into effect from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 regarding the testing for COVID-19.

The Government website states that *“People who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won’t be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.*

*This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK.*

*Lateral flow tests are taken by people **who do not have COVID-19 symptoms**. A positive LFD test must be reported to the Government website, the link is included here [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)*

***Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.”***

Therefore, if your child does not have any symptoms but has a positive LFD test please report it to the Government website and send a **screenshot/email of the isolation end date so we may authorise the absence accordingly**. Without this notification we cannot authorise your child’s absence as a COVID-19 absence and therefore impacts their attendance percentage.

For students who take the PCR, please continue to forward the confirmatory screenshot/email to school.

### **The seven-day isolation period has been confirmed**

The 10-day self-isolation period for those who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to seven days in most circumstances, unless the individual cannot test for any reason, and the Government has confirmed that this applies to students attending school and school staff.

Students and staff may now take lateral flow device (LFD) tests on day six and day seven of their self-isolation period. These tests must be 24 hours apart. We suggest taking them first thing in the morning, then, if they are both negative, your child can return on day 7.

If the first and/or second are positive, then please continue to test each day. As soon as you have two consecutive negative test results, students no longer have to complete 10 full days of self-isolation and can return to school.



Day 0 of the isolation period is the first day of symptoms or the day of the positive test if there are no symptoms. If your child is a close contact of a positive case, we recommend that your child does a LFD test each day for 7 days.

### **Students with symptoms of COVID-19 having to self-isolate**

The latest Government guidance also states that anyone with symptoms, even mild symptoms, including: sore throat, headache, muscle ache, fatigue, shortness of breath, blocked/runny nose, diarrhoea and vomiting, and cold-like symptoms should be sent home from school and asked to self-isolate until they receive a negative PCR test so we will continue to operate this procedure.

### **Close contacts within the same household of someone testing positive for COVID-19**

The Government advice is that all children below the years of 18 years and 6 months are not required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone having COVID-19. Therefore, students should continue attending school. However, students must:

- take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier.
- take this daily test before they leave the household for the first time that day.

### **Those formerly considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable**

The Government has made clear that following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again. Students who were previously identified as being in one of these groups, are advised to continue to follow the guidance contained in 'Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread'. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannotdo>

Students considered CEV should attend school and should follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.

### **Maintaining asymptomatic testing**

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. As you are aware, we began the term with all students whose parents/carers have given consent, taking an LFD test in school. We will also ask staff and students to continue to test twice weekly at home, with LFD test kits on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. This has proven to be really helpful so far in identifying positive cases of COVID-19.

### **Maintaining positivity, a sense of normality and our core focus as a school**

We appreciate that the current situation regarding the Omicron variant of COVID-19, and its implications for our school, may cause you some anxiety. We are determined to maintain a positive outlook and ensure the students in our care continue to benefit from our work on teaching and learning and personal development and enjoy school. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Leader if you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the aforementioned points.

Thank you for your continued support.



Ms Azizah Pathan  
Vice Principal