



15 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the recent government update around the transmission of the Omicron variant, schools have received updated guidance on how to mitigate against the spread of the new variant and what actions will need to be taken before we return in January, these are highlighted below.

The DfE confirmed in an email to leaders that from today, Tuesday 14 December, “a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.”

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should:

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the National Online Reporting System <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- If they **test negative**, they can continue to attend school.
- If they **test positive**, they should
  - also report this to school via Weduc or by email to [reception@brookvalegroby.com](mailto:reception@brookvalegroby.com)
  - self-isolate and
  - arrange a PCR test <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if a further LFD is positive.

- Outside of school, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release.
- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

## **JANUARY RETURN**

In order to facilitate the mass testing required of schools in the New Year we will be adopting a staggered start to term and the details on how this will be approached are outlined below. Buses will operate as normal. Students will be called out of their lessons through the mornings of Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th to be tested.

- Students in Post 16, Year 11 and Year 9 will return to school, for the spring term, on Wednesday 5 January 2022
- Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 will return to school, for the spring term, on Thursday 6 January 2022

If you have previously given consent for your child to be tested this consent will remain in place for testing in January. If you no longer wish for your child to be tested please email [reception@brookvalegroby.com](mailto:reception@brookvalegroby.com) before the end of term.

Please encourage your child to continue to test throughout the holidays and test on the day before their return to school in January. Test kits are available from the school reception.

We continue to learn more about the impacts of the Omicron variant. To prepare for any possible changes in public health advice, the DfE is asking all schools and trusts to revisit their existing outbreak plans to ensure they are well prepared for any future changes and ensure they are familiar with the [Contingency Framework Guidance](#).

Measures for future changes are:

- Increased use of LFD testing, potentially including more on-site testing
- The reintroduction of face coverings in classrooms
- Limiting residential educational visits, open days, transition or taster days, parental attendance in settings and live performances in settings
- Restricting attendance as a last resort (we know that this is already happening on the basis of Public Health advice in some areas of the country)

### **UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**

The government has confirmed that people aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Booster doses can be pre-booked online if it has been 2 months (61 days) since a person had their 2nd dose and they are:

- aged 30 and over;
- aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts you at high risk from Covid-19;
- a frontline health or social care worker.

If you book your booster, you will be offered an appointment which dates from 3 months after the date of your 2nd dose.

16 and 17-year-olds can get two doses of the Covid vaccine. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and can use walk-in centres.

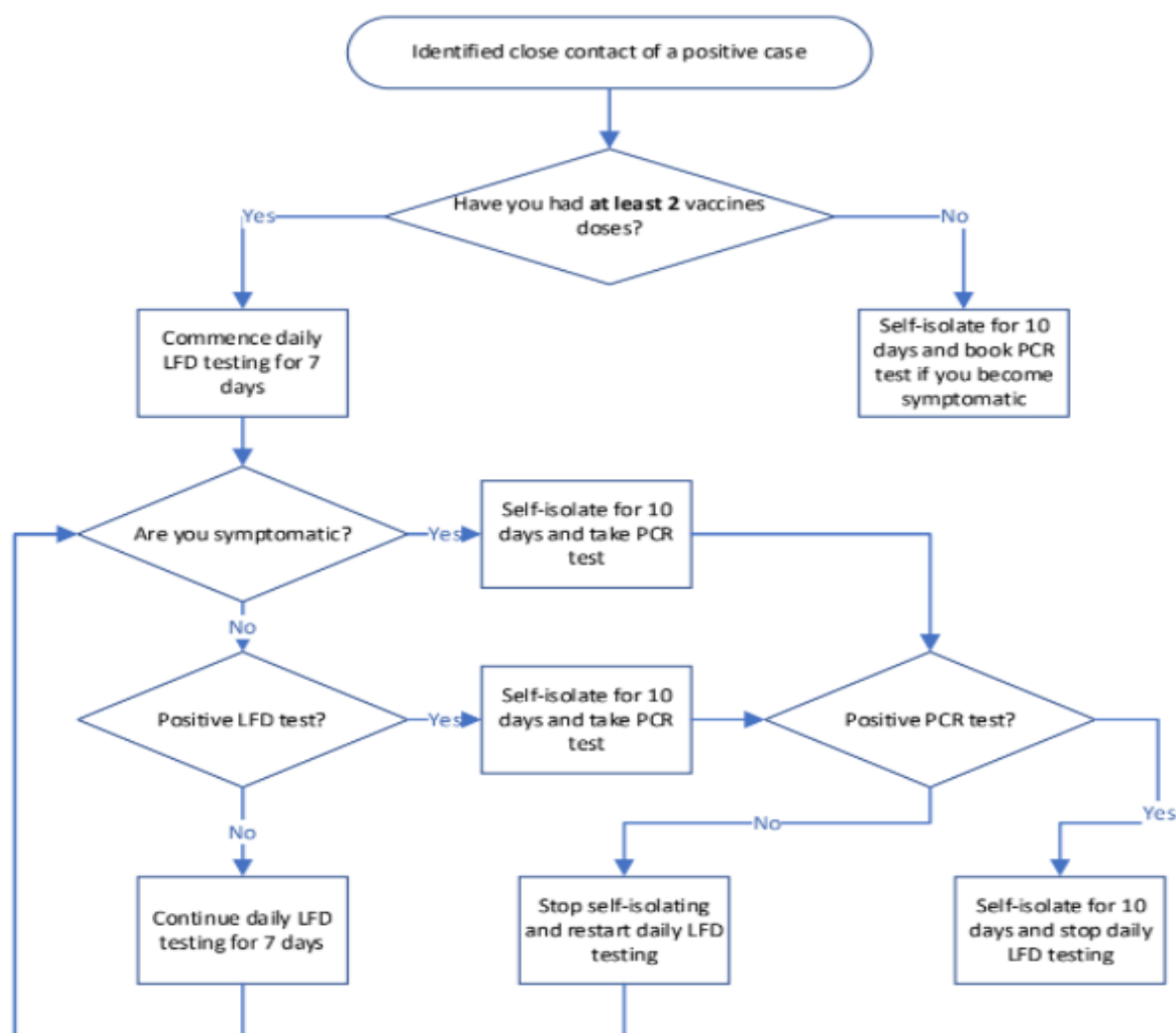
The Health and Social Care Secretary announced on Monday 29 November that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine, following advice from JCVI. Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the [national booking system](#).

The DfE has asked schools, where possible, to direct parents to the out-of-school route as they break up for the winter holidays. In some cases, parents will be able to get their booster at the same time as their child getting their first vaccine.

- Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#).
- [Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination](#) and booking a vaccination can be found on [NHS.UK](#).
- An information leaflet on [what to expect after vaccination](#) is available to download or order.

The chart below demonstrates the updated approach to closer contacts and the actions that should be taken:

### Self-isolation and testing requirements w.e.f. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021



We wish you and your family a happy and healthy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

W Teece  
Headteacher