

# Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well and I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. The government has released several updates regarding Covid 19 protective measures.

## 1. Self isolation period

The self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and pupils do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation

## 2. Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children under 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing at school or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

## 3. PCR tests

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for 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. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19. Therefore, people do not need a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

## 4. Face coverings and masks

Face coverings and masks should be worn in classrooms as well as communal areas. The government say this is a short-term measure. Unless exempt KS3 pupils will be expected to wear face coverings. If you haven't already, parents /carers must let school know if their child is exempt and the reason for this.



## 5. Testing

Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing at school or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Lateral flow test packs are distributed to the school community on a regular basis.

### **How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now or attend a drop-in site. See <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in> for clinic locations and times.
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places – and on school/public transport
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Yours sincerely



Miss Z J Linington  
Headteacher