

# COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (1/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What happens if a **close contact** of my child tests positive on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They can consent to take part in 'serial contact testing' where they are tested daily for 7 days
- If they test negative, they can remain in school/college that day
- If you or they do not wish to take part, they will need to self-isolate

What if my child tests **negative** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- There will be no need for them to self-isolate and they can remain in school / college as normal
- Social distancing and face coverings where appropriate will remain necessary

What do I need to do if my child tests **positive** for COVID-19 on a Lateral Flow Device?

- They will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the positive result
- Contact the school / college to inform us of the PCR test result which you will receive via text / email
- If the PCR result is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days

How does my child testing positive impact the rest of my household?

- Your household will have to self-isolate for 10 days
- Follow the [latest government guidance](#).

When can my child return to school / college after testing positive for COVID-19?

- Your child can stop self-isolating and return to school / college on day 11 **after the positive PCR test** if they've not had a high temperature for 48 hours and are well
- They can return then even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell as these symptoms can last for several weeks

# COVID-related pupil/student absence – Printable Guidance for Parents and Pupils/Students (2/2)

The guidance below addresses what a positive or negative test result means for your child and your household, and the support available to you.

What does a positive result mean for my child's education?

We have a strong commitment to ensuring all pupils/students can access a wide range of learning resources remotely and will continue to support their education whilst they are self-isolating.

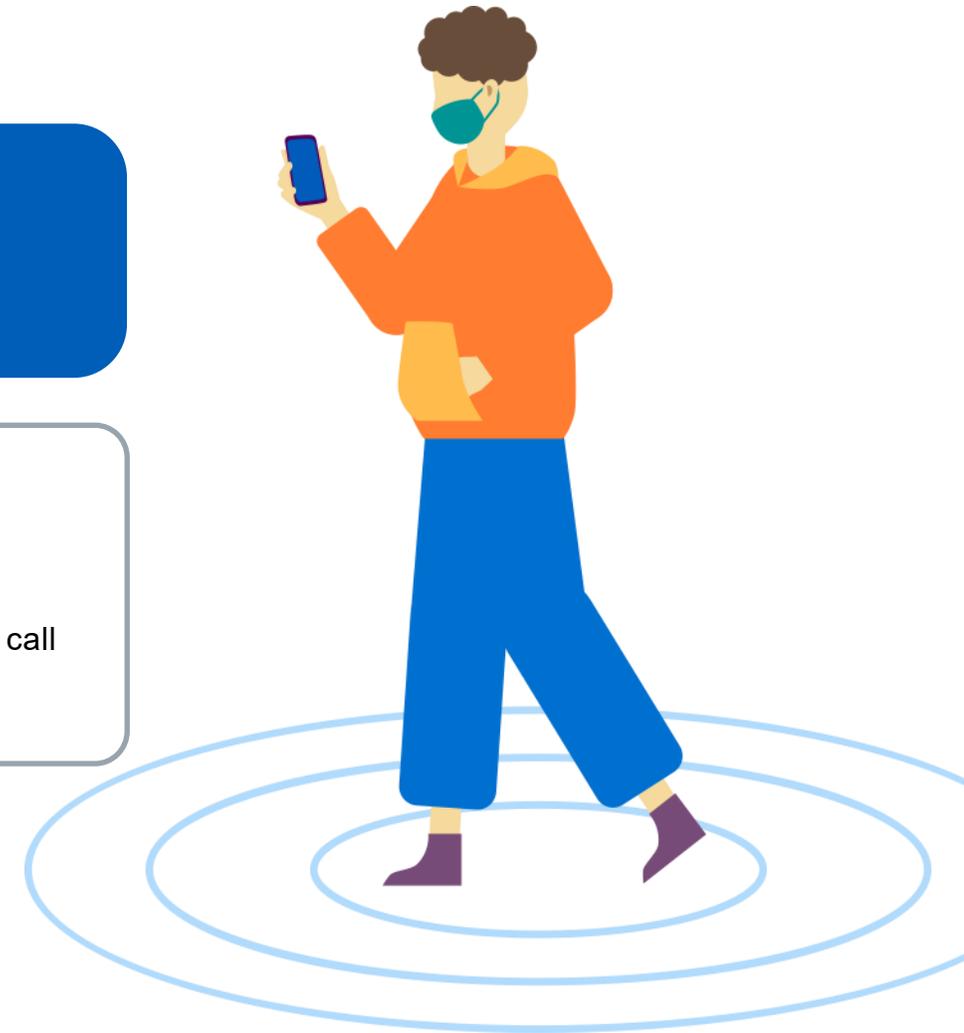
Additional information can be found <https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>



Addressing your concerns

For more information you can visit: <https://bit.ly/covidhomelearning>  
If you're worried about your child medically, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/> or call 111.

**IMPORTANT:** If, at any point, a student/pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.



## Asymptomatic (Lateral Flow Device) Testing at Darrick Wood School

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. How often will my child be tested?

The likely frequency will be weekly. There is a suggestion in the guidance to schools that we might try testing every 3-5 days as this is considered the optimum in terms of catching asymptomatic cases, but logistics might prevent that. Weekly will be the aim, but if we can do more frequently whilst smaller numbers are attending (Jan 2021), we might be able to test more frequently.

Of course, if your child is identified as a proximity contact for another student or a member of staff in school who has tested positive and you have consented for them to be tested, they would then be tested daily for 7 days to check they are not asymptomatic and positive. They can then continue to come to school and not have to isolate for 10 days. If during this time they do test positive through one of the tests in school they will be issued with a 'PCR test' to take home and send off to NHS to confirm the result. If positive they will then follow the usual guidance for positive cases and isolate. **PLEASE NOTE GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE NOW STATES THIS ASPECT OF THE TESTING IS 'PAUSED' UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

#### 2. My child has symptoms of COVID-19. Will they be tested at school?

No. Any child with symptoms must not attend school. You should contact NHS119 and book them a test at a test centre or order a home test. They should self-isolate. The tests in school are for asymptomatic students and staff only.

#### 3. Will the children who do not consent be returning to school at the same time and still be mixing with those who do?

We do not yet know what the government guidance will state about the return of students to school. However, before the lockdown was announced consent to be tested was not a condition for returning to school. It was hoped however that the majority would consent in order to reduce the prevalence of the virus in schools meaning more children could remain in school.

#### 4. What happens between the lateral flow test being administered and the result? Do they wait outside or continue with their day until the results are in?

They return to their lesson immediately. Whilst during this time, if they are infectious this means they mix with others, school staff will locate them quickly in the event of a positive test and isolate them, call parents and send them home with a PCR test to complete to confirm the result. The aim is not to disrupt the School greatly. If a child was being tested daily as a proximity contact, they would however have to stay in a holding area near the test centre for their result. Only if it is negative they would then attend lessons.

#### 5. Can I consent for regular testing of my child but not to the 'serial testing' (i.e. when they are identified as a proximity contact of a positive case). I would rather they isolated for 10 days instead of attending school and being tested daily for 7 days.

If you are only consenting for one aspect of this, please note it on the consent form.

#### 6. Can I withdraw my consent?

Yes, at any time. There is a link on our website for this.

*Updated 21/01/21*