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Headteacher: Mrs J Cook

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs N Harradine
Acting Deputy Headteacher: Miss J Morgan

11th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Temporary Changes to PCR testing

It has been really lovely welcoming the children back to school following the Christmas break. New topics have started and the children are really engaging well with their learning.

As we expected, COVID is continuing to cause absences in school. Thank you to all parents who are helping us reduce transmission by engaging their child in daily LFD (Lateral Flow Device) tests if their child has been a contact of a positive case.

Face Coverings

We have made the decision that face coverings **must be used in all areas of the school site**, unless you are medically exempt. **This includes the outdoor areas and playgrounds.** There are some parents and carers who are supporting this, but a very large number who are not. Please wear a face covering if you are able and distance yourself as much as possible from other families, to try and reduce the risk of transmission.

Temporary Change to PCR testing

If you or your child has one of the three main symptoms of COVID 19, you must still have a PCR test; cough, high temperature or a loss of taste or smell.

If you have a different symptom (maybe a blocked nose or headache) and take an LFD test, which is then positive, for now, you no longer need to have a confirmatory PCR test.

Also, if you are taking part in asymptomatic testing using LFDs and test positive, you also do not need to get a confirmatory PCR, for now.

The result of the LFD test must be logged on the gov.uk website and you may be contacted to ask to arrange a PCR anyway. Please contact school immediately if your child has a positive LFD.

The isolation period if you test positive on the LFD is still 10 days from the day you test positive (this is day 0). However, for adults who are double vaccinated and children, this can be reduced to 7 days if 2 negative lateral flow tests are received. The lateral flows can be taken on day 6 and then day 7, if both are negative, then the person can return to work / school from day 8. The day 6 and 7 tests are optional, and 10 days isolation can be completed instead.

The Local Authority have produced a helpful flowchart about testing, which is below.

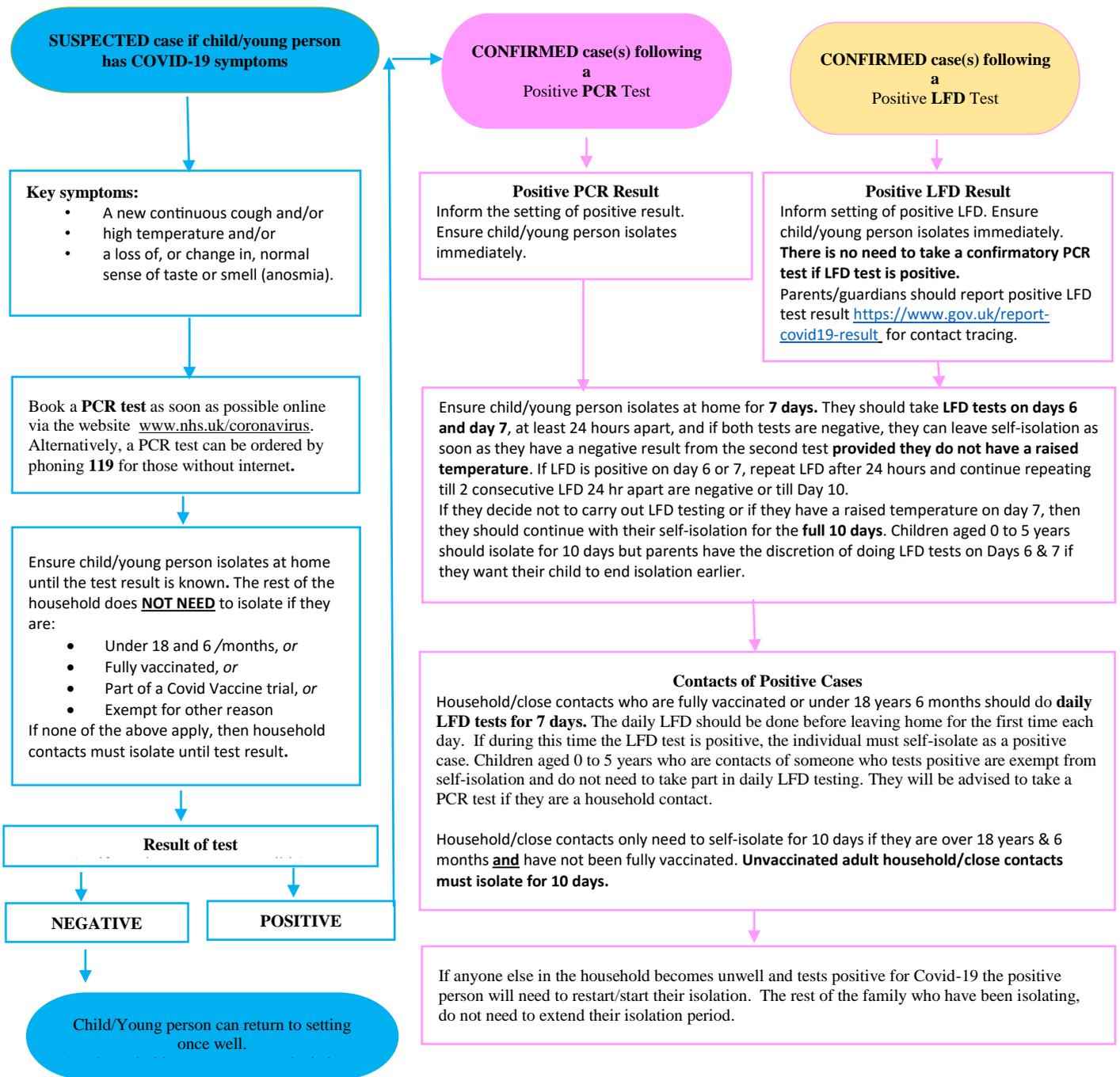
Kind regards

Mrs Harradine

Deputy Headteacher



For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a child/young person please follow the flow chart below



- **With the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron Variant, we continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear face coverings (if aged 11 and over) in crowded public indoor areas, maintain distance, get vaccinated and take LFD tests prior to meeting people outside your household.**
- **Face coverings are to be worn by everyone over the age of 11yrs unless exempt on transport to and from educational settings.**
- **Secondary school pupils to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas.**
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available within 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have previously received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result within the last 90 days and you are identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 you should not take a PCR test. You should only take a PCR test if you develop any NEW symptoms of Covid-19.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms. If you have symptoms always book a PCR test.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy. They are not recommended for children under 5 years of age but can be used at parent/guardian discretion.
- If you have had a Covid-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing, use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test. Always follow the instructions on the pack as there are different types of LFD tests.