

Tuesday 1st March 2022

Dear families,

Last week, the Prime Minister gave a statement in Parliament outlining the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response. The Prime Minister confirmed domestic legal restrictions ended on **24th February** as we are asked to begin to treat COVID-19 like other infectious diseases.

This means:

- The remaining domestic restrictions in England will be removed. The legal requirement to self-isolate ends.
- Routine contact tracing ends, including venue check-ins on the NHS COVID-19 app.
- Fully vaccinated adults and those aged under 18 who are close contacts are no longer advised to test daily for seven days and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate will be removed.

WHAT THE CHANGES MEAN FOR SCHOOLS

Changes to Testing

- From Monday 21st February the Government is removing the guidance for staff and pupils in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

- From Thursday 24th February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. **Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.**

In line with the main school guidance, the UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) guidance makes the following points about schools and children:

“Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.”

“Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.”

To clarify: If your child tests positive for COVID-19 or develops symptoms, they should not attend school until clear to do so.

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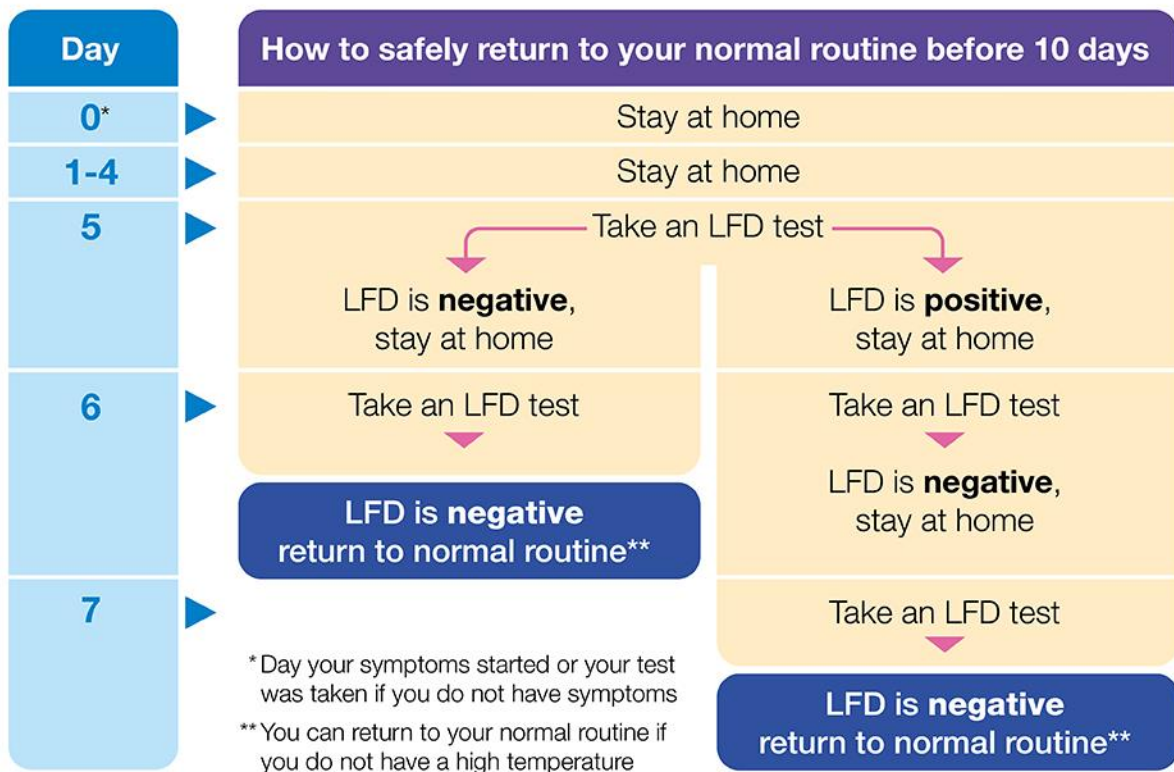
Email: admin@chesterbluecoatce.cheshire.sch.uk



The various operational guidance documents for education settings also continue to include the following statement:

“If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, the school can take the decision to refuse the pupil entry, if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.”

Please refer to the following diagram for reference:



Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,



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