



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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11th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to take the opportunity to communicate some key information now that students have returned to school. We are aware just how much information there is and how guidance can change quickly. Since the last time we contacted you, the guidance regarding isolation and testing has changed. Now, pupils can return to school on day 7, provided they have had two negative lateral flow tests on day 6 and 7, and these tests have been carried out 24 hours apart. Please confirm (via our attendance line) that two negative lateral flow tests have been completed before returning to school. If a child is still testing positive on Day 6, testing can be repeated and negative tests 24 hours apart on Day 7&8 or 8&9 will also allow them to return to school after the second negative test.

We are proud, once again, of our students and how they have responded to the guidance to wear face coverings in lessons as well as transition time. We will continue to review this in light of the latest guidance and are hopeful that this will be a short term measure to help as many staff and students able to attend school as possible.

Testing

Although there are some national issues in accessing LFTs, we want to re-assure you that we currently have plenty of stock in school. If students need additional tests, these can be collected from student or main reception. We advise that students continue to take tests twice per week (Monday and Thursday mornings if possible) and that these results are reported via the NHS website. In the event of a positive case please also text our attendance line.

From 11th January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus 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. Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

Anyone who is identified as a contact of Covid-19 should take a lateral flow test for 7 days. They can continue to attend school if the test is negative. This also includes those living in the same house as a positive case (Staffordshire LEA previously advised to isolate pending a negative PCR test.)

We thank you for your continued support as we navigate these updates.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Hurn
Deputy Headteacher