

Office of the Director of Public Health

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I write further to my letter of 20th October, in which I recommended the introduction of daily Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing in secondary school settings for household contacts of confirmed cases, and I also recommended that primary schools suggest the same course of action to their pupils' parents and carers.

Since the letter was issued, we have received an enquiry that is likely to be relevant to all parents and carers, and so I have taken the opportunity to write to you again to make you aware of it and to provide you with our response.

The issue concerns the re-testing of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 90-day period. The relevant guidance 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' states that **anyone who has had a positive PCR test result within the previous 90 days should not be re-tested (PCR or LFD), unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.** If an individual is re-tested within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test, and the result of the test is positive, the individual must self-isolate again, and their household contacts must self-isolate, unless they are double-vaccinated or are under 18 years and six months. The guidance can be found at this link: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

As a reminder, my general recommendation is that if one individual in a household tests positive, any children and young people in that household who attend school or college should:



- Take a PCR test (ideally on Day 3-5 after first exposure), and
- Take a daily LFD test for 10 consecutive days from the date of first exposure
- Continue to attend school provided that their test results (PCR and LFD) are negative
- Self-isolate for 10 full days from the date of the test if any of their test results are positive
- In the event of a positive LFD test result, obtain a confirmatory PCR test
- If the confirmatory PCR test is taken within the two days following the positive LFD result and PCR result is negative, the young person can return to school/college.

In the case of other contacts (identified by NHS Test and Trace), we will continue to advise on any additional testing measures on a case-by-case basis.

I would also like to take the opportunity to remind you that it is now possible to book vaccination for 12-15 year olds using the National Booking Service (online or via 119). This complements the in-school vaccination programme and means that vaccination will be able to continue throughout school holidays. I have attached again the COVID-19 information leaflet on vaccination that also includes links to other sources of information. Information on the vaccination programme can also be found here:

<https://www.cheshireccg.nhs.uk/news/news-stories/covid-19-vaccination-programme-what-you-need-to-know/>

LFD Test Kits are available:

- From secondary schools or colleges
- Online [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- From community pharmacies [Regular rapid lateral flow coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/regular-rapid-lateral-flow-coronavirus-covid-19-tests)
- From certain Cheshire West and Chester Council test sites
 - Stanney Oaks Leisure Centre, Ellesmere Port
 - The Dingle Centre, Winsford
 - Pop up mobile testing unit
 - Libraries: Northwich, Neston, Frodsham and Ellesmere Port and the mobile library service

Venues for the mobile testing units and opening times for all Cheshire West and Chester Services are available at [Testing without symptoms \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/testing-without-symptoms)

I hope that you find the above information useful. Thank you once again for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely



Ian Ashworth
Director of Public Health