



HOLDERS ROAD
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Maths &
Computing

THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

NDR/CAD/dah

17th March 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

Following the closure of Years 7 and 8 due to confirmed COVID-19 cases in each year group bubble, we have received a number of questions from parents that we would like to address within the body of this letter in the form of Frequently Asked Questions. This follows on from the statement that was released by Wiltshire Council and Public Health England yesterday.

Important reminders

In order to ensure the safety and business continuity of the school and wider community, it is very important that parents remember when students should be kept at home.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. This is because you could pass the infection on to others, even if you don't have symptoms. There is [guidance for households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection](#). If anybody in your household has symptoms or a positive test result, the whole household must self-isolate for ten days. If another member of the household develops symptoms or tests positive, the whole household must self-isolate for a further ten days.

Pupils should also be following the lockdown rules that remain in place, for instance:

- They should only walk with one other person from another household, and should remain socially distanced from them at two metres.
- They should only be with one other person in a public place.
- They should minimise the time spent travelling between home and school, and observe social distancing in public places (Wiltshire Council have also asked that we remind parents about the need for students to socially distance when in shops in particular).

Contact details

Please ensure that we have the most up-to-date communication information required – let us know if you move, and have updated contact numbers, emails etc. to ensure you are receiving up to date communications in the event of an emergency.

Frequently Asked Questions –

1. Why is a year group bubble being closed when pupils had been tested in school with Lateral Flow Tests?

As per the statement issued yesterday from Public Health England: *Whenever a positive test result is notified, each individual case is risk assessed and sometimes it is necessary for a whole year bubble to self-isolate if it cannot be confirmed that pupils in a year bubble did not come in to close contact with the positive case.*



A negative test result is only for that point in time and does not mean that a child does not have the virus as they could still be incubating it. Lateral Flow tests are an additional tool to try and identify anyone who may be asymptomatic with a high viral load. The most effective ways of reducing the spread of the virus are infection prevention control measures, good hand hygiene, social distancing and wearing face coverings where required.

2. What are the rules relating to Lateral flow tests being followed up with a PCR test?

Taken from the DFE and NHS Test and Trace FAQs: If a pupil or student receives a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it is positive then they, their close contacts and other members of their household must self-isolate in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance. **PCR testing is not advised if you have received a positive result from an LFD test at a school or college test site. If a parent was to do this and it returned a negative result, the policy remains that the pupil or student, their close contacts, and other members of their household must still self-isolate.**

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home **do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil or student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.**

3. Why aren't we testing the whole year group every day for seven days?

The original plan from the DfE and Government was that Lateral Flow tests would be offered in the instance of a positive case in a 'bubble' for seven days to all pupils in order to avoid sending pupils home. Following concerns from Public Health England, the Department for Education retracted that decision and removed the guidance that pupils would be able to stay in school following a positive case.

The statement from the DfE is as follows:

Based on advice from Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace, the testing programme initially included offering those who came into close contact with a positive case in colleges and schools the option of 7 days of daily contact testing as an alternative to self-isolation.

PHE and NHS Test and Trace have now reviewed their initial advice in light of the higher prevalence and rates of transmission of the new variant. They have concluded that these changes in the virus warrant further evaluation work and that daily contact testing in place of self-isolation should be paused until this evaluation has taken place. We will update this guidance once this evaluation is complete.

4. How are the ten days of self-isolation calculated?

Day 0 is the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if no symptoms). In the case of Y7 and Y8, the positive result was received on Friday 12th March 2021, therefore, 10 days on is Monday 22nd March (inclusive). Therefore the return to school for both year groups is Tuesday 23rd March.

5. Will Year 7 and 8 receive a Lateral Flow Test on their return?

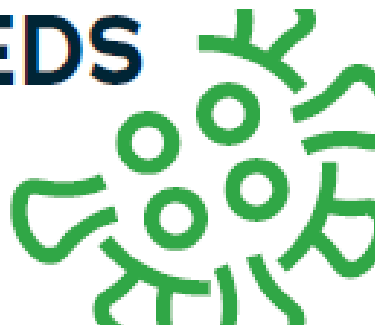
Y7 and Y8 will be invited back to school on Tuesday 23rd March, at which point they will undergo a lateral flow test within their tutor group and will be released into their teaching sets once the negative result is received.



6. How will they get home testing kits?

Home test kits will be allocated to Y9, 10 and 11 on Wednesday 17th March 2021 with the expectation that the first home test will take place on either the evening of Wednesday 17th March or, the morning of Thursday 18th March before coming into school. Home test kits will be issued to Y7 and Y8 on their first day of return on the 23rd March and their first home test will take place on Sunday 28th March, or the morning of Monday 29th March.

WILTSHIRE NEEDS YOU TO PLAY YOUR PART



Help control the spread of COVID-19

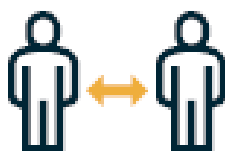
When you go out:



Wash Hands

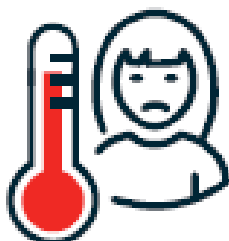


Cover Face



Make space

You must book a COVID-19 test if you experience any of these symptoms:



High Temperature



Cough

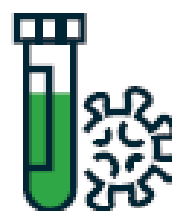


Change or loss of smell or taste

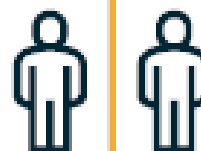
If you have COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild:



Self-Isolate



Get Tested



Keep others safe

#WiltshireTogether

