

SWINDON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr G Mills BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

28th October 2021

Dear Parents

R.E. COVID-19 – Lateral Flow (LFD) Testing for under 11 & Rise in Cases

I'm sure that you will be aware that the number of positive COVID-19 cases are rising nationally but also locally. The rapidly rising infections in Gloucestershire have triggered thresholds for additional action and we have received some updated guidance.

I feel that the messages around testing and isolation have become confused and it is difficult to know what to do if we suspect that someone may have COVID-19.

I hope that the following information will hopefully clarify the situation, particularly with the updated guidance for Lateral Flow Testing (LFD) of children under 11.

Symptomatic?

New continuous cough – Fever 37.8 or over – Loss of smell or taste

- As soon as anyone becomes symptomatic, they should isolate immediately and arrange to have a PCR test to see if they have COVID-19.
- If the result is negative, they can return to school as soon as they feel well.
- If the result is positive they should self-isolate for 10 days.

Lateral Flow Tests - LFD Tests

- Whilst routine Lateral Flow (LFD) testing on children under 11 is not currently recommended nationally, we have received guidance from South West Public Health and South West Health Security Agency which suggests that parents may wish to test their children twice a week.
- If you choose to use a LFD test on your child you must take the appropriate action and self-isolate and get a PCR test if it is positive (Two lines shown)
- If your child is displaying symptoms (and you are not sure if they are COVID related) and the LFD test is negative you must also self-isolate and book a PCR test.

- If in doubt whether it is cold symptoms or COVID symptoms, please book a PCR test and also do a LFD test – they are now 90%+ accurate
- We have also been advised to inform parents that household contacts of a confirmed case should take daily LFD tests whilst they await their PCR results and continue to attend school until the result of the PCR test is known. This is at the parents' discretion but is strongly recommended.

Close Contacts

- All close contacts of confirmed cases are advised to take a PCR test. If close contacts are under 18 years 6 months, are fully vaccinated, have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial or not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons they do not need to self-isolate.

Already had COVID-19?

- If someone has recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, they are likely to have developed some immunity. Individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms, in which case they should isolate and arrange for a PCR test.

What if my child starts to show symptoms at school?

- If your child starts to show COVID symptoms at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect your child and to arrange for a PCR test.
- Your child must not return to school until you receive the result.
- We respectfully ask that you keep us up to date with the outcome of the test result.

If in doubt whether it is cold symptoms or COVID symptoms, please book a PCR test and would strongly recommend daily Lateral Flow Testing.

Working together we can continue to protect our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Geraint Mills
Head Teacher