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"Be the best that you can be"

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new year and a new term. Whilst we are excited to get the new term started with lots of fantastic learning, I am writing to update you about the ongoing Covid situation.

As I am sure that you have seen in the press over the Christmas break, the country remains at Plan B, due to the current numbers of cases of Covid – the Omicron variant, in particular. In Stoke-on-Trent our cases are slightly below the National rate, but we are being urged to test regularly and get jabbed if eligible.

The Department for Education (DfE) have recently released updated guidance for schools, there are two main changes to actions required for close contacts and isolation periods.

### 1. Close contacts –

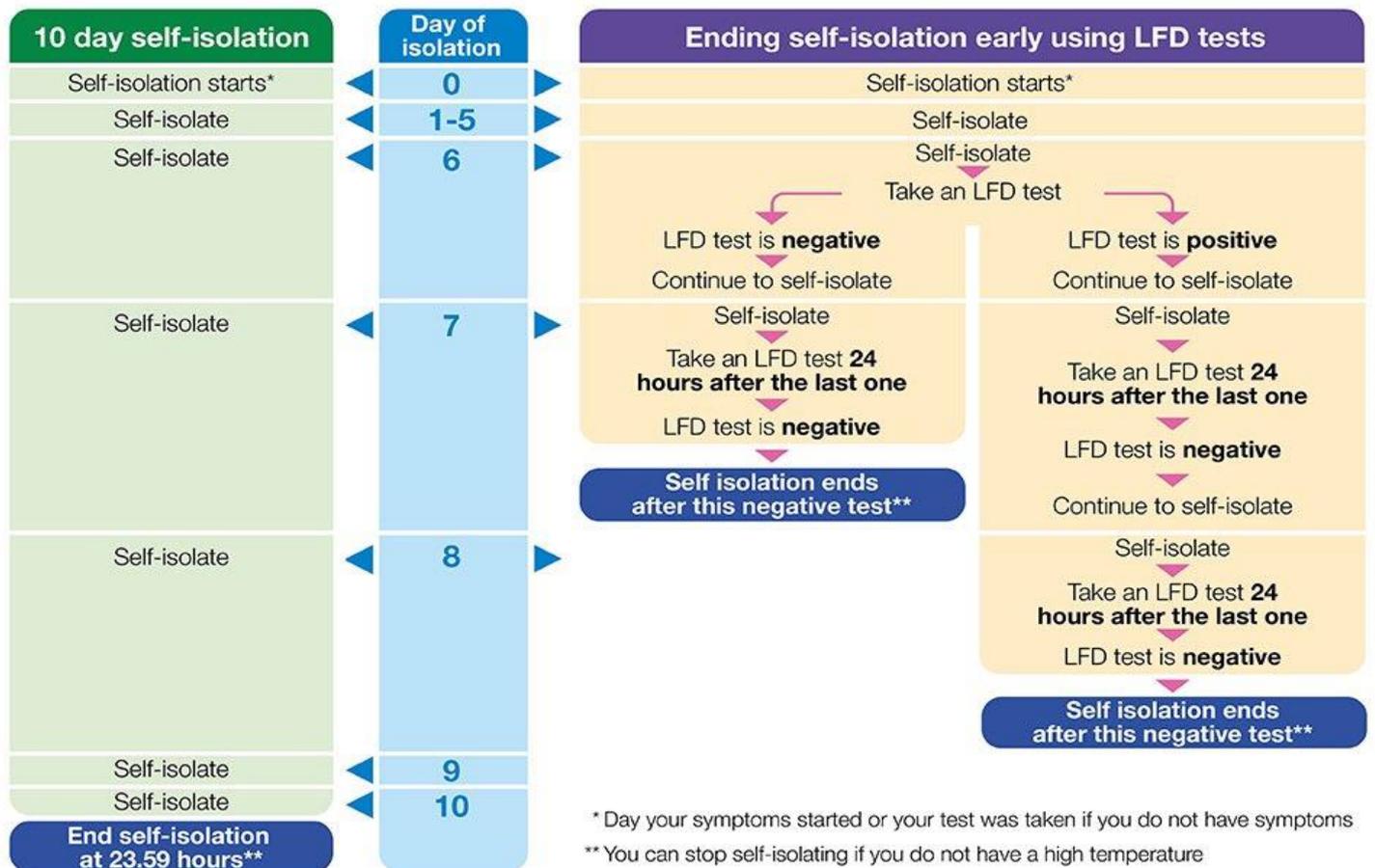
*Children over the age of 5* – If a child has been identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19, they should take a LFT, every day for 7 days. They can continue to attend school, unless they have a positive result or start to feel unwell with symptoms, in which case they should go for a PCR test. We will inform you if your child has been in close contact with anyone at school, if so, they should follow the guidance above.

*Children under the age of 5* – If a child is a contact of a confirmed case, they do not need to daily test. If a member of their household is confirmed as having Covid-19, the child should take a PCR test, they can continue to attend school, until the results come back. If the results are positive, then they should follow the isolation advice outlined below. If the child begins to show symptoms, then they should isolate until the results come back.

### 2. Isolation –

If someone tests positive for Covid-19, an isolation period of 10 days will be advised by NHS Test and Trace, but they have recently added a condition where this isolation period can be ended by day 8. I've had lots of questions about this already, as I know it's confusing when the guidance change, so I'm including a flow chart to demonstrate the new advice – please see below.





Please note that self-isolation cannot be ended early if a person still has a high temperature. The guidance does suggest that people proceed with caution during day 8, 9 and 10, if isolation is ended early. This includes avoiding busy places where possible, we do consider ourselves a busy place, so we would ask that you don't send your children to school during this period please.

We will continue to do whatever we can to minimise the spread of Covid – 19 within the school building. We now have CO2 monitors in the classrooms, meaning that we can monitor the air quality and we will continue with other mitigations from the Autumn term, such as no non-essential visitors to the school building and increased hygiene measures. We continue to ask that pupils go straight home at the end of the school day please.

We will start the year with class based or virtual worships and limited indoor mixing whilst cases are high, but will review this on a weekly basis, in an aim to move back to our 'normal' procedures, as soon as we can.

Thank you as ever for your continued support and understanding.

Take Care,

Mrs Jennifer Cunliffe  
 Co Headteacher

