

10th January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Further update to Covid guidance

The Government have announced that as from tomorrow (Tuesday 11 January), people who receive positive lateral flow results for COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test **unless** they develop symptoms.

POSITIVE LATERAL FLOW AND NO SYMPTOMS - Under this new approach, anyone who receives a positive lateral flow (LFD) test result should report their result on <u>London Design & Engineering UTC (Ideutc.co.uk)</u> and also on <u>www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result</u> and must self-isolate immediately but will not need to take a follow-up PCR test unless they develop symptoms. After reporting a positive LFD test result, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that their contacts can be traced.

THOSE WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS - Anyone who develops one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), 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.

The self-isolation period for all who test positive is now 7 days (subject to negative tests on days 6 and 7) - please see the NHS guide to isolation below.

Should your child take 2 negative tests, please email <u>absence@ldeutc.co.uk</u> to confirm that they will be returning to college. Contacts of those who test positive do not have to isolate but are asked to do daily lateral flow tests for 7 days.

	Days	
0		Symptoms begin or test taken - isolate immediately
1		Begin counting self-isolation days
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		Begin home testing
7		Self-isolation can end with two negative tests taken at least 24 hours apart
8		
9		
10		Isolation ends at the end of day 10 - no test required

The guidance applies whatever your vaccination status. It applies whether you have tested positive for Omicron or another variant.

As I am sure we are all aware, the guidance and rules are changing quite rapidly - we will do our best to keep parents informed.

Separately, young people aged 12 to 15 are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose. Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the NHS Booking System

Yours sincerely,

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Gloria Gold Vice Principal – Personal Development and Wellbeing