



1.3.2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

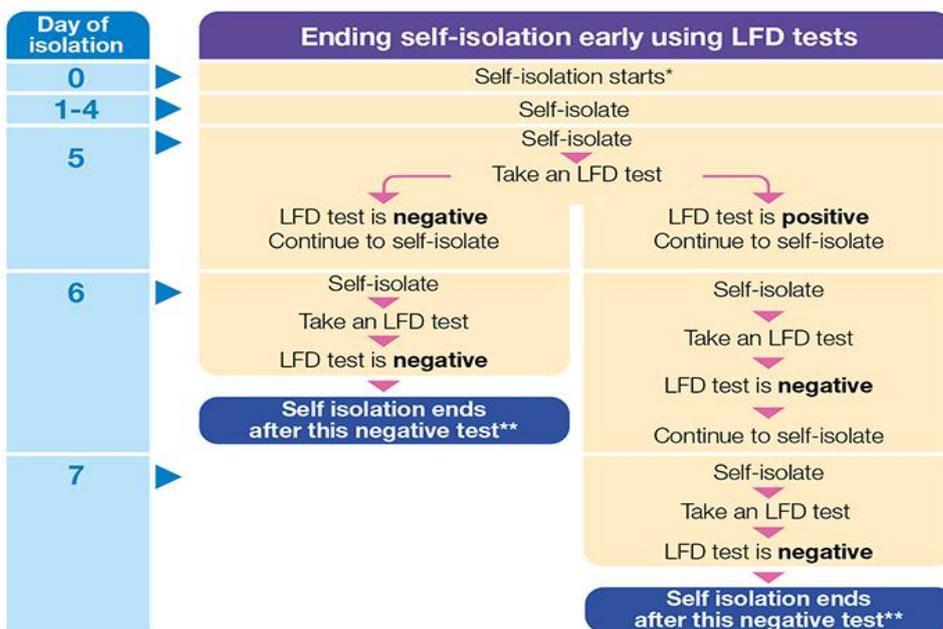
I hope you and your families are well. As you know the Government updated national COVID 19 Guidance last week, including for schools, and I wanted to let you know how the changes affect pupils and families at St Leonard's.

While the legal requirement for positive cases to self-isolate has been removed, here at St Leonard's we will be following the Government Guidance, and that of Sunderland Public Health, that continues to recommend that pupils who test positive do not attend school for at least five days.

Pupils with COVID 19 Symptoms

- Children and young people who test positive are advised not to attend their education setting while they are likely to be infectious. Instead, they are advised to continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative LFD test results on consecutive days from day 5 onwards, at which point they can return to their education setting, as long as they do not have a temperature.
- Children and young people who are a household contact of someone who has tested positive can continue to attend the setting as normal as long as they are well and do not have a temperature.
- Anyone with main symptoms of COVID-19 is advised to stay at home for at least 5 days, take a PCR (while still available to everyone) and avoid contact with other people. They are advised not to attend work and to take actions to prevent household

The following diagram explains the routine of testing etc:



* Day your symptoms started or you tested positive for COVID-19.
 ** You can stop self-isolating if you do not have a high temperature.

Testing

- The government has removed the guidance for staff to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.
- In response to a local outbreak routine testing may be reintroduced on the advice of Sunderland Public Health.
- Families will continue to be able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or online.

Contact Tracing

- Routine contact tracing will end. Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate.

Face Coverings

- It is no longer mandatory for pupils, staff or visitors to wear face coverings in the classroom or communal areas. Any staff who wish to continue to wear face coverings in school will be supported in doing so.

Ventilation

- Good ventilation remains as the biggest mitigation we can have to limit the spread of the virus so we will continue to have windows open and pupils will continue to be advised to wear warm layers under their uniform.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to reduce the risk from COVID 19 to pupils and staff at St Leonard's. If you have any questions please contact school via the office email address above.

Stay safe,

Dionne Dunn

Mrs Dionne Dunn
Acting Head Teacher.