

St Anthony's Primary School

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Dear Mums, Dads, Carers,

As you will be aware there has been a steep increase in Covid-19 case numbers in the wider community over recent weeks and this has been reflected within our School. All schools have received further guidance, this week, from the Education Authority and Public Health Agency and I would like to explain to you how we will manage positive cases moving forward.

- Parents/carers should continue to contact the School to notify us if their child tests positive.
- If we see a significant number of students in a class or year group testing positive over a 10-day period, we will contact the families within that class or year group and recommend that students take a Lateral Flow Test before returning to school.
- If a student is identified by the PHA as a close contact, they can continue to attend school but should take a Lateral Flow Test every day for 10 days after their contact with the positive case.

NI Direct Guidance on Self-Isolation Procedures

Below is a copy of the section from the NI Direct website which explains how the period of self-isolation can be shortened to 5 days.

*You may be able to end your self-isolation period after five full days of isolation, with release on day six, provided you have **two consecutive negative lateral flow test results** taken 24 hours apart, with the first of these **taken no earlier than day five**.*

*If both these test results are negative, and you **do not have a high temperature**, you may end your self-isolation immediately following the second negative test result on day six.*

You should report your LFD test results(external link opens in a new window / tab) after taking each test.

*If either your day five or six tests are positive you should test again the following day and **you should only leave isolation early** (that is before you have completed 10 full days) after you have had **two consecutive negative LFD tests, taken at least 24 hours apart**.*



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You should stop testing after you have had two consecutive negative test results.

If you still have a high temperature, you need to continue to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal for 48 hours.

If you leave self-isolation on or after day six following two negative lateral flow results, you are strongly advised to limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces and to minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19.

If your lateral flow tests continue to be positive and you have completed 10 full days of isolation, you do not need to take any more LFD tests after the 10th day and you may leave isolation the following day without testing. This is because you are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of your isolation period.

Even if you have a positive LFD test result on the 10th day of your self-isolation period, you do not need to take any more LFD tests after this day and you do not need a follow-up PCR test.

Thank you for your continued support.

Á Fleming
Principal



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