

14th December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

First of all, I do very much hope that this communication finds you all in good health and positive spirits as we approach what for us all will hopefully be a much-improved festive season.

I am writing to inform you of changes to Government guidance, as of today (14th December 2021).

From today, there is no further need for fully vaccinated adults (or those under 18 years 6 months) to isolate following contact with a positive case of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

Instead, once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of any Covid case, all eligible staff, pupils and students should:

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and MUST inform the school of any positive result.
- If they test negative, they can continue to attend school.
- If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.
- Outside of school, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#).
- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.
- For pupils with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.
- This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.
- For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Adults who are not yet fully vaccinated will need to self-isolate for 10 days if notified by Test and Trace. Children under five do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 and do not need to isolate.

As a Trust, the actions we take and plans we have in place will always align with Government guidance, and as always, we will seek to keep the members of our school communities informed of all key changes. Please see the flowchart below for steps to take in the event of being identified as a close contact and contact details for the Waterton team should you have any queries.

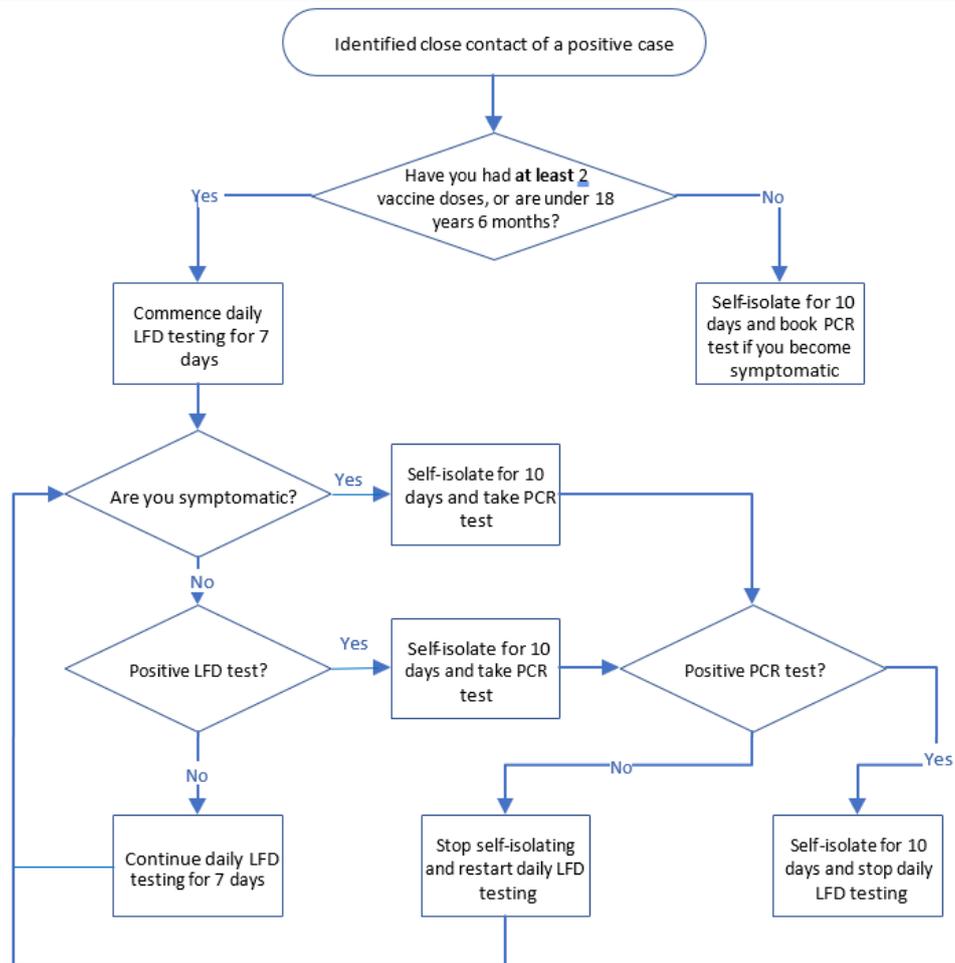
Please ensure that you take the opportunity to relax and enjoy the festive season. Thank you for your continued support; I look forward to sharing with you a successful and prosperous 2022.

Stay safe and well.



Mr. D Dickinson OBE
CEO
Waterton Academy Trust

Self-isolation and testing requirements from 14th December 2021



For further advice please contact Elanor Davies on 01924 240767 or email edavies@watertonacademytrust.org