

1st March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Updated guidance around COVID-19 came into place on Thursday 24th February and whilst there is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to self-isolate, the updated published guidance outlines measures aligned with the previous legal requirement to manage risk of COVID-19, people with COVID-19 and their contacts. The Federation also has a responsibility to review its own risk assessment and put systems in place.

Children and Covid

i) Positive test result

If your child tests positive, guidance still advises people to stay at home to avoid passing the infection on to others. School and the NHS must be informed of a positive result. The child should remain at home for at least 5 days.

Many people may no longer be infectious after 5 days and so, as previously, if the child has no temperature and negative LFD test results on day 5 and 6, the risk of them being infectious greatly reduces and so they can safely return to normal routines. If they test negative on day 5 and day 6, they can then return to school.

ii) Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

If your child displays symptoms of Covid, you should take the child **for a PCR test, not a lateral flow test.** If a child displays symptoms at school, the parent/carer will be informed and asked to take the child for a **PCR test, not a lateral flow test.** The child must isolate until the PCR test result is back.

If the test result is positive, the same guidance should be followed as outlined in point (i) above.

Close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.

Please note that school can take the decision to refuse a pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

Key messages:

Control measures to remain in schools to reduce risk:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. However, the government suggests that you continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

Testing

PCR testing is still currently available for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms.

Routine asymptomatic testing of staff is no longer required.

Please see overleaf for a helpful summary of what to do in the event of a positive test.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via the office.

Best wishes

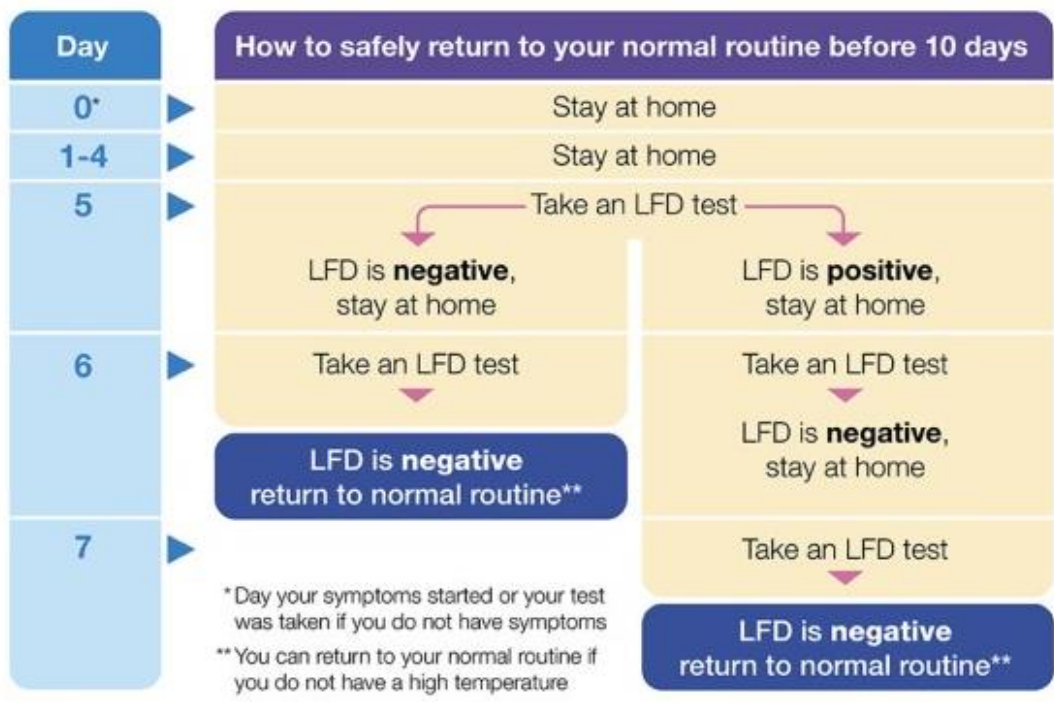


Mrs Fenemore
Executive Headteacher



Kings Nympton Primary School, Kings Nympton, Umberleigh, EX37 9ST
Executive Headteacher – Mrs V Fenemore

01769 580512
admin@kingsnympton.devon.sch.uk
www.kingsnympton.devon.sch.uk



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