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*'Happy are those who hear the word of
God and keep it' Luke 11.28*

Monday 10th January 2022

Covid – 19 Updates

Dear Parent/ Carer

With effective from tomorrow, 11.1.22 The Government are putting into place a Change which is a 'Temporary suspension' of confirmatory PCR's – This means it will no longer be necessary to seek a Confirmatory PCR test after testing Positive on a Lateral Flow Test (LFT). Instead the Individual will self Isolate immediately.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confirmatory-pcr-tests-to-be-temporarily-suspended-for-positive-lateral-flow-test-results>

For clarity please see below how this will impact on our Risk Assessment and policy;

If your child is a Direct Contact of a Staff Member/ Pupil who tests Positive

If your child is identified as a Direct Contact of a staff member/ pupil who tests positive for Covid -19 from 11.1.22, in line with the temporary changes, they will not be required to get a PCR test before returning to school.

It will be necessary for them to take a **Lateral Flow tests** for **7 days** and report these result to school each day on Head @lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk and Bursar@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

If at any point within this 7 days your child(ren) tests positive they must self isolate and school must be informed.

A copy of the NHS Notification will be the only evidence accepted. We cannot accept a photograph of a Lateral Flow device.

Lateral flow results are reported on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

LFTs can be ordered on <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or collected from a Pharmacy and or a public place such as a library.

If a member of your Household tests positive for Covid- 19

You must inform School if your Child(ren) or any member of the Household tests positive for Covid – 19. You will be asked to email a copy of the result to school.

If a member of your Household tests positive for Covid – 19, Your child(ren) are deemed as a Direct Contact. From 11.1.22, in line with the temporary changes, they will not be required to get a PCR test before returning to school.

It will be necessary for them to take a **Lateral Flow tests** for **7 days** and report these result to school each day on Head @lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk and Bursar@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

If at any point within this 7 days your child(ren) tests positive they must self isolate and school must be informed.

A copy of the NHS Notification would be the only evidence accepted. We cannot accept a photograph of a Lateral Flow device.

Lateral flow results are reported on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

LFTs can be ordered on <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or collected from a Pharmacy and or a public place such as a library.

Length of Self Isolation period.

If your child tests positive for Covid – 19 the Self Isolation legally is now reduced to 7 days **ONLY if the following requirements are met and the correct evidence is provided.**

- Your child must be free from Fever, diarrhoea and/ or Sickness for 48 hours (as current policy)

You will be required to send confirmation of a Negative LFT on day 6 and day 7. The tests notification must be named and dated and show the tests were taken at least 24 hours apart. The evidence required would be the NHS notification either as an email or a screenshot of the Text message. We cannot accept a photograph of a Lateral Flow device.

- A LFT result is reported on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

LFTs can be ordered on <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or collected from a Pharmacy and or a public place such as a library.

A PCR is still required for ALL who demonstrate ANY symptoms of Coronavirus. This has not changed despite any temporary amendments/ changes in guidance.

How to book a PCR test.

A PCR test can be booked by calling 119 or online at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

You would then need to email a copy of the result would then be emailed to school Head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk or Bursar@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

Covid- 19 Symptoms

For your information the key symptoms of Covid- 19 as displayed on the Governments website are shared below:

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child(ren) have any of the above symptoms they should not attend school.

If your child(ren) develop any of the above symptoms and/ or becomes unwell whilst in school they will be sent home and will be required to seek a PCR test.

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe during these ever changing and challenging times. We continue to ask for your continued support so we can reduce the spread and ensure that School remains open.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. A. Brogden
Head Teacher