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14th December 2021

Our ref: SP/102/KB

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: New Government Guidance to Daily Testing of Close Contacts (as an alternative to self-isolation)

From today, the Department for Education has instituted a new set of arrangements for those people who are notified by the NHS that they have come into close contact with a confirmed case.

The detail of those arrangements has been copied below for your information.

From Tuesday 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and pupils should:

Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their school.

- 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.

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY LETTERS TRANSLATING, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL

Ambergate Sports College, Dysart Road, Grantham, NG31 7LP. Tel: 01476 564957

Sandon School, Sandon Close, Grantham, NG31 9AX. Tel: 01476 564994

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- For **students 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.

LFD Test Kits

The DfE confirmed in the email yesterday afternoon that all **staff and secondary aged pupils** and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests **from their education setting**.

If a **secondary school** (or secondary schools) in your Trust requires additional test kits sooner than they would be available through the standard ordering process, or will run out of test kits imminently, you can **contact 119 to request an emergency replenishment**.

For **primary aged children** [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Children under five do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 and do not need to isolate.

Finally, the DfE confirmed it is important to **continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing** for all staff and all students of secondary age and above.

Yours sincerely

S Plamenova

Stela Plamenova

Executive Headteacher - GANF

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