

Daily LFT test letter

Dear Parents,

I am writing to advise you that there have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Horbury Primary Academy.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation. Please be reassured that for most people and especially for children and young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Schools are no longer required to identify close contacts of cases. This will be done by NHS Test and Trace who will call the parents of confirmed cases directly.

However, because of the high number of cases in the academy, it is likely that many of these pupils have been close contacts of a positive case. To reduce further spread and disruption to teaching, we would ask you, if possible, to do daily lateral flow tests on your child for the next 7 days. First thing in the morning before school is ideal, but you can test the night before if it is easier for you.

If the LFT is positive then your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days. It is no longer necessary to get a PCR test to confirm the result when an individual is asymptomatic.

You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result.

You should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of your isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation after you have had 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. You should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results. You should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your isolation period.

For further detail and information please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child is negative on daily lateral flow testing, then your child can attend school as long as they have no symptoms of illness. If they do have a cough, fever or loss of taste/smell, then they will still need a PCR test even if the LFD is negative.

Children do not always have the 'typical' symptoms, so if your child is generally unwell and in particular has symptoms such as sore throat, headache, runny nose and sneezing, we would ask you to keep them at home and consider a PCR test where symptoms persist.

If you do not undertake daily testing then please still watch out for possible symptoms of COVID in your child and arrange a PCR test if necessary.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

Rates of COVID-19 are higher than ever before in Wakefield, but there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting seriously ill with COVID-19.

The most important thing is for everyone over 18 to get both doses of vaccine and a booster as soon as possible. The vaccines provide very strong protection against becoming seriously ill with COVID-19 and needing to go to hospital.

Children aged 12-15 can now get their second dose of vaccine, as long as it is at least 12 weeks after their first dose.

Information on where to get a vaccine is here: [Walk in and grab a jab](#)

In addition:

- Keep using face coverings in crowded indoor spaces;
- Limit the number of people you mix with who aren't in your household;
- Meet outdoors or in well ventilated spaces when you can;
- Stay at home and get a PCR test if you have possible symptoms of COVID-19, especially cough, fever or loss of taste/smell;
- If you have been in close contact with a positive case, do daily lateral flow tests for 7 days. Limit your contact with others as much as you can, especially vulnerable people;
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

Wakefield Public Health Protection Team.