



RC/JAE

10 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find detailed below the most recent (Monday 10 January 2022) information from the Department for Education regarding testing and vaccinations for students.

Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test results

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January 2022. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Clarification on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since December 2021, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

- Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period.
- Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. **These tests must be recorded and evidenced before returning to school.**
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.
- 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 and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7 (*DfE Guidance 2 January 2022 stated Day 8, then changed – this will also depend on the time of day the tests are taken*).

Clarification on the use of face coverings in examinations and assessments

Following the temporary reintroduction of face coverings in classrooms, the [public health guidance to support exams](#) was updated on Sunday 2 January 2022. This guidance sets out that we would not ordinarily expect candidates and invigilators to wear face coverings during exams and assessments, but only on arrival and departure. Both candidates and invigilators may wear face coverings if they wish to do so.

We recommend centres also follow this guidance for mock exams and other assessments taking place under exam conditions or as close to exam conditions as possible, including those taking place to gather evidence for Teacher Assessed Grades under the [guidance published by Ofqual](#) on Thursday 11 November 2021. This includes circumstances where these assessments take place in classrooms.

Information on the vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds

- Thank you for all your work to support the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds in schools. Around half of 12 to 15 year olds have now received at least one dose.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4399 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

 @PCSInformation

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens



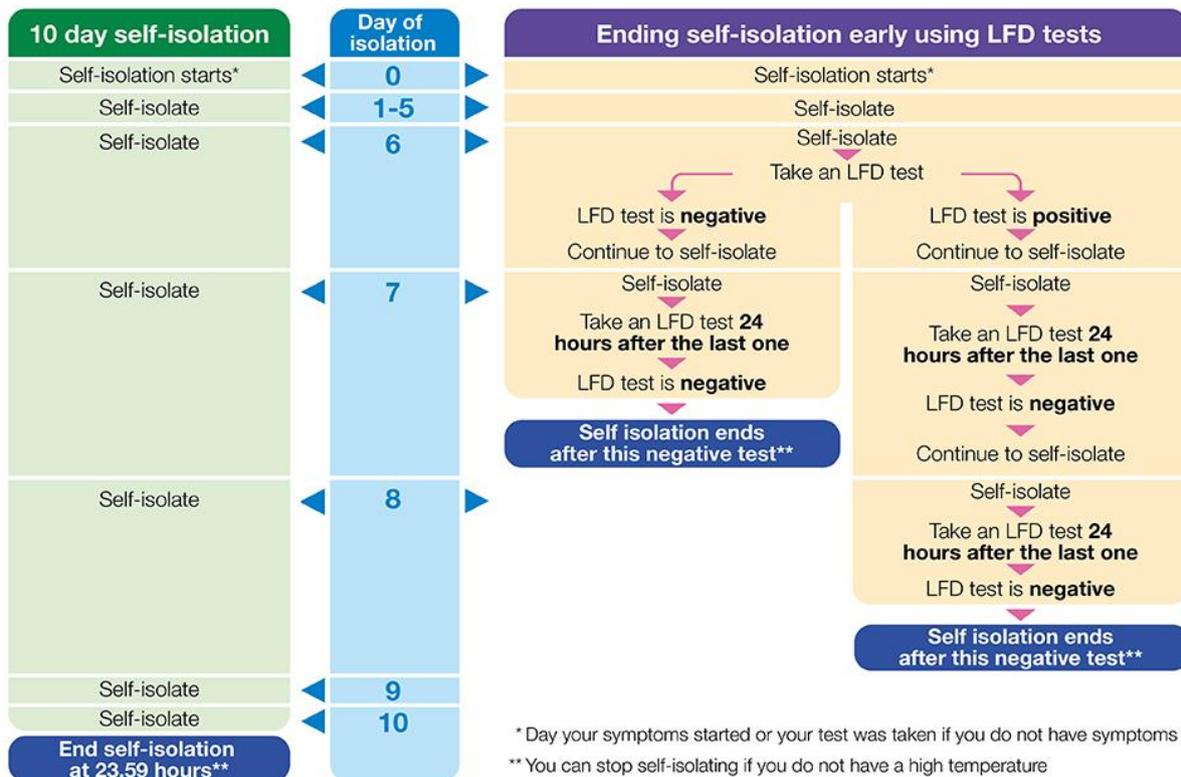


- Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
- Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

School-based vaccinations

- Vaccination for this group will also continue to be carried out by the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS). A letter was issued to parents in December 2021 giving information about further vaccinations here at the school on **Monday 7 February 2022**. The letter contained a E-Consent form for completion. To date we have nearly 200 returns.
- All students are asked before the vaccination about their current health.
- If your child has had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks, they will not be able to be vaccinated.
- A copy of this letter can be found on the school website.

Guidance Summary from the Department for Education



- You should follow this advice until 10 full days from when your self-isolation period started.
- You should not take any more LFD tests after the 10th day of your isolation period, and you may stop self-isolating after this day. This is because you are unlikely to be infectious after the 10th day of your isolation period.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4399 | E: office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

@PCSIInformation

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens





- Even if you have a positive LFD test result on the 10th day of your self-isolation period, you should not take any more LFD tests after this day.

I hope the information above makes sense. I am sure it will change again following the Government review on 26 January 2022.

Thank you for your sustained support with providing face coverings for your child. We hope to have more in stock soon.

Yours sincerely

R Carlyle

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School

White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4399 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

 @PCSInformation

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens

