

# Shepherds Down School

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Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Many of you who we have been in contact with over this week, will be aware that we have had a significant rise in COVID-19 cases over the past 7 days. We currently have positive cases in a number of classes across the school, either children or staff or both, and have even had to close one class as the vast majority of the staff are isolating.

As you will also be aware the guidance has significantly changed since last year and this is proving challenging within the school, particularly the guidance in relation to contact with a positive case either within the household or school. Being able to attend whilst waiting on PCR results and the reliance on PCRs when so many of our children do not tolerate this, is proving difficult. We have also had a small number of cases where a PCR result has been negative and within a day a lateral flow has produced a positive result which, has then been confirmed by another PCR.

In light of this current situation we have been in touch with Public Health England (PHE) and they have given some additional advice that we need your help to implement.

1. If there is a positive case within your household or you have been advised that your child has come into contact with a positive case, either in school or outside of school - **they should get a PCR test and whilst waiting for the result please can you carry out a daily Lateral Flow on your child if you are sending them into school whilst waiting for the result. If the PCR result comes back negative can you continue to test your child with Lateral Flows daily before they come into school, until 10 days after the positive contact.** As I have mentioned before, a PCR is still the most reliable test to detect COVID-19 and if your child will tolerate a Lateral Flow the process is the same, as a result should be possible with just a swab in both nostrils so would strongly encourage you to try to do this if your child has contact with a positive case. However, if your child does not tolerate PCRs can you still try and carry out Lateral Flow testing daily before they attend school, for 10 days after the positive contact. Most Lateral Flow tests will produce a result with just a nasal swab and many of the latest tests only require this.
2. In addition, if we send your child home with or you describe that they have one of the main symptoms - e.g. raised temperature (if only for a brief period) and/ or new and persistent cough **you need to get a PCR test for your child and they cannot come back into school unless they have a negative result. If this is not possible then, bearing in mind the current situation, we will ask you to keep your child at home for 10 days from the start of symptoms.**

Whilst I want to explain the situation to all parents and the particular challenges, I also don't want to cause you all to worry. We continue to keep in place all the existing measures within classes, in particular minimised mixing between classes, ventilation within all occupied spaces and frequent sanitising of surfaces and hands by all.

Thank you for all your support so far with the measures that are in place and your understanding with the situation, we really appreciate it. I understand how difficult the testing is for many of our children, however without this happening we will not be able to reduce transmission, minimise the risk of classes being closed because there isn't enough staff and ultimately keep everyone as safe as possible.

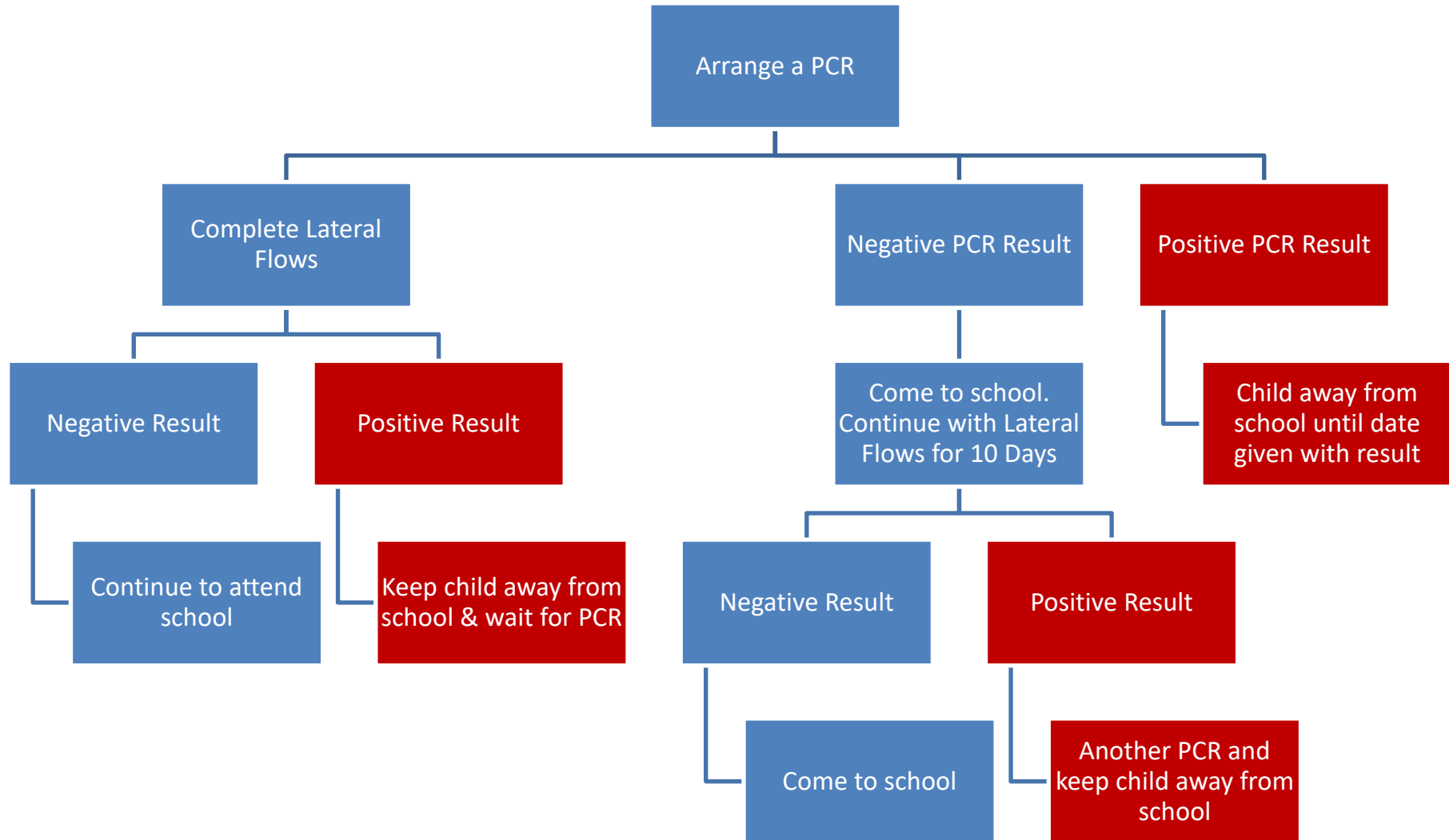
Please contact me if you have any concerns or want to discuss any of this further.



Hampshire  
County Council



# If your child has contact with a positive case, in or out of school



If your child show symptoms at school and we send your child home

