

# Shepherds Down School

Shepherds Lane, Compton, WINCHESTER. Hants. SO21 2AJ

Tel: 01962 713445 Fax: 01962 713453 Email: [admin@shepherdsdown.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@shepherdsdown.hants.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: Mrs Debby Gooderham



3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good Christmas and are ready for your children to return tomorrow. In light of the return to school I wanted to quickly update you on the latest COVID-19 guidance from the government and the current restrictions we have in place.

The two main changes in the latest guidance is the procedure to follow if you/your child has had contact with a positive case and the length of isolation.

### Close Contact:

If your child has been identified as a direct contact (class/bus) of a positive case, instead of getting a PCR test the advice is to carry out daily lateral flow tests for 7 days from the day of contact. Your child can continue to attend school, as long as they have a negative Lateral Flow each morning. If the lateral flow test is positive then your child needs to self - isolate and you will need to book them a PCR test. If the PCR is positive then your child needs to remain at home for at least 7 days, if the PCR is negative then your child no longer needs to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily lateral flow tests, again only needing to isolate if it is positive.

We will continue to let you know if your child has been a close contact of a positive case, either on the bus or in their class and advise you to carry out daily lateral flow tests with your child. If your child has had contact with a positive case outside of school, such as within your family we also ask that you let us know so that we can be particularly vigilant to any symptoms and support you.

I appreciate that for many children daily lateral flow testing will not be any easier than a PCR test, however, the newest lateral flow tests only require a nasal swab, which some of you have said your child finds easier. We can provide individual visuals and can provide the tests if you are finding it difficult to access them, please let us know if you need help with this. What we found from last term was that transmission within class from a positive case did occur, particularly when there is a need for intimate care and other forms of close contact and so I am sure you can appreciate how important daily lateral flow tests will be in minimising transmission. Please try to do them on your child if at all possible if they have been identified as a close contact. Please let me know if you are unable to carry out lateral flow tests for the 7 days so we can discuss this further and try to minimise the risk. For example, if testing your child isn't possible at all then testing yourself could also support identification, if it was assumed that a positive lateral flow from a parent in this situation would indicate a need for a PCR for the child.

### Isolation period:

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 they can return to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> day (rather than 11<sup>th</sup>), from the start of symptoms/positive lateral flow as confirmed by track and trace **only** if they have a negative lateral flow on day 6 and 7 of their isolation period and no longer have a temperature. If the lateral flow is positive on either of these days your child needs to remain at home until the 11<sup>th</sup> day. If you are not able to complete a lateral flow on these days then your child should remain at home for the 10 day period.



Hampshire  
County Council



The remainder of the operating procedures and precautions we detailed towards the end of last term will remain in place:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone - frequent and thorough hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene for all.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes - regular cleaning of areas and equipment, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated - Opening windows, internal and external (where safe to do so), balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. Continue to limit occupancy of small rooms where there is minimal ventilation possible.
4. Remaining vigilant to symptoms - send home any child displaying any of the 3 main symptoms and request that they remain at home and get a PCR test.
5. If your child does display any of the 3 symptoms, particularly dry persistent cough or a temperature (above 37.8) even if this is short lived, we ask that you keep them off school/pick them up as soon as possible and keep them at home until the result of a PCR
6. If your child has displayed symptoms **school need to have a copy of the negative PCR result before you send your child back to school.**
7. In the case of a positive result - your child will need to remain at home for at least 7 days (see new guidance above). If this is the case please let school know asap, so that we can support with remote learning and so we know that there is a positive case in the school, to keep abreast of a possible outbreak.
8. If you are not able to do a PCR please keep your child at home for 10 days. Please remember - a **Lateral flow test is not sufficient if your child is showing COVID-19 symptoms.**
9. Continue with Asymptomatic Testing - The vast majority of staff are carrying out twice weekly saliva tests or lateral flow tests. We would be grateful if you continue to do the same, within your household. **Please re-start them before school tomorrow**
10. Continue the end and beginning of the day arrangements - request that parents aim to drop and pick their child up just after the buses - just after 9am/3pm respectively.
11. Continue to wear masks at the beginning and the end of the day - and request that you support us with this by doing the same.
12. If there are more than 2 cases within a 'group' where there will have been close contact - (which we are classing as a class) - we will implement our contingency plan (See attached). This plan will include restricting mixing of classes and particularly staffing - which could impact on staffing levels resulting on class closures.

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations for vulnerable children under 11 years:

I am sure many of you will have seen the government announcement that - a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised shortly. I will let you know as soon as I have further information on this.

I know that last term was very challenging for everyone and I think there will be further challenges this term, particularly in staffing levels and keeping the levels of transmission as low as possible. I continue to be very grateful for your support with following the procedures in place and your understanding during these challenging times. I know that many of you were very concerned about the number of cases last term, as was I, but I can assure you we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that we can keep everyone as safe as possible whilst providing the face to face education that all the children need. If you do have concerns or want to discuss anything in relation to COVID-19 then please speak to me over the next few days.

I look forward to seeing all the children returning to school tomorrow.

Take Care.

Debby