



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a peaceful holiday and I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

I am sure you have all seen the press release this weekend on new measures in schools due to the new Omicron variant, but I thought it would be helpful to communicate with you the latest updates and how it affects your child at Colton Hills School.

Testing for students after the holiday period

The government have asked students to take a Lateral Flow test at home before they return to school on Wednesday 5 January whether they will be participating in onsite testing or not. This will help to reduce any possible infection.

The Department for Education (DfE) have asked that secondary school students undertake one on-site test, on return in January. This will help boost testing participation and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. Students should then be strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to their setting.

In School testing for students on their return later this week

All those students who have had parental or carer permission to have an onsite test will be given one from Wednesday 5th January as outlined below.

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
Wednesday 5th January	Year 11 Testing		Year 11 Testing	Year 10 Testing	
Thursday 6th January	Year 8 Testing	Year 7 Testing	Year 9 Testing	Year 9 Testing b/up	Post 16 Testing

Students with consent will be given a box of lateral flow tests after their in-school test to take home with them for ongoing testing.

Students without consent for an in-school test can still receive a box of lateral flow tests from student reception if you want to test at home. We continue to advise this as a way of continuing to protect our community.

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

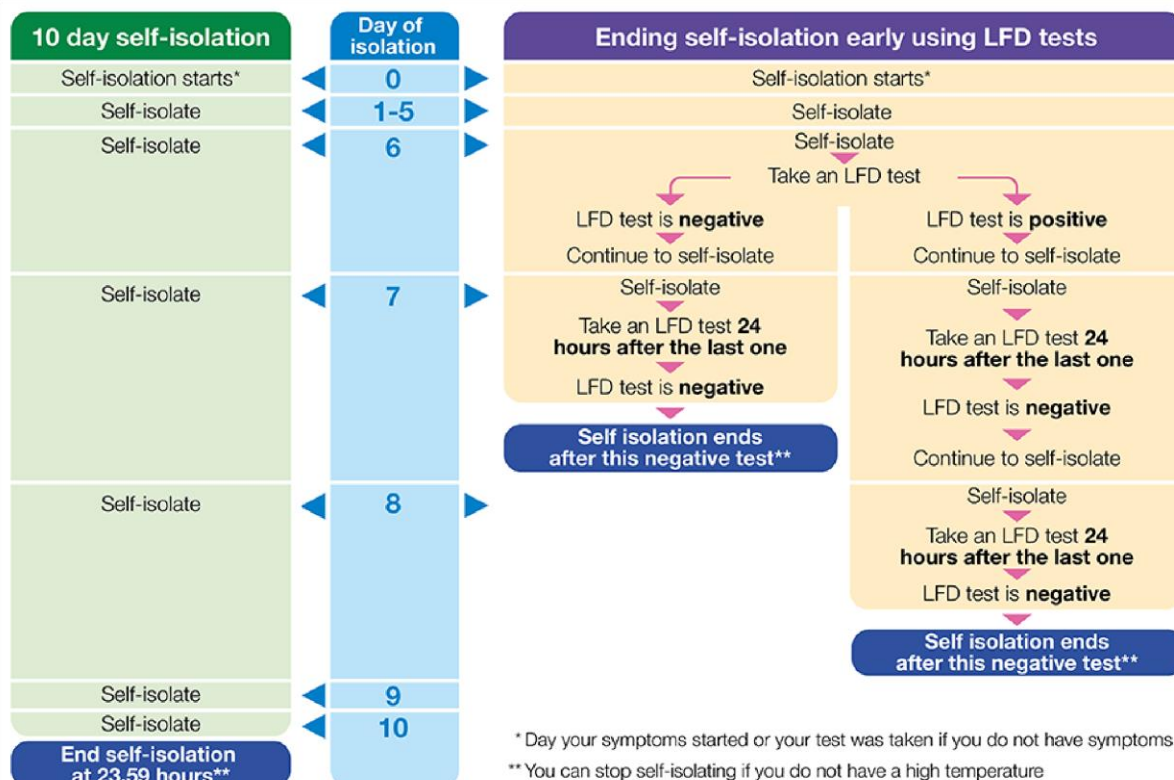
Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.





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 and can return to school.

Hopefully this chart below will help, too:



Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings

It is now recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in Year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until **Wednesday 26th January**, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Although Colton Hills School does have a small supply of face coverings, we would really appreciate parents and carers providing your child with their own face covering and at least one spare, in case of loss or damage. Our students are old enough now to take ownership of this and





Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission

Headteacher – Mrs A Stephens

realise the importance of complying to these national guidelines, which will support all of our school community at this time.

We do have a small number of staff and students who are exempt from face coverings, and they will continue to wear their exemption lanyard to inform others.

I will, of course, continue to update you of any changes to national guidance.

We look forward to seeing our students at the start of this new year, and all students should arrive remembering they have a personal responsibility to set high expectations in order to become the best version of themselves.

Excellence looks like:

- Arriving early or on time for school
- Having perfect and correct uniform
- Being fully equipped and prepared for learning
- Adopting a professional and compassionate attitude

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back to school tomorrow at 8.20 and a reminder that we are on Week 1.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Stephens



coltonhillsschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk



[@coltonhillscs](https://twitter.com/coltonhillscs)



www.coltonhills.co.uk