



14 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Latest Guidance on COVID-19**

Please see below the latest guidance from the DfE which starts today regarding the change to self-isolation for all types of COVID-19:

**Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term).

**1. If you test Positive**

As now, anyone whose rapid test comes back positive or who develops COVID-19 symptoms whether (Omicron or not) should self-isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test to verify the result. **If the PCR result comes back positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the day they took the positive rapid test or developed symptoms.**

**2. If you test Negative**

**If the PCR result comes back negative-** (whether Omicron or not), All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – **should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.**

**3. If you are close contact of someone who has tested positive**

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. **If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting.** Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

**If during the 7 day testing period they test positive after an LFD test, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test or the day they develop symptoms. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.**

*Be The Best You Can Be*

#### **4. If Unvaccinated**

Unvaccinated adults are not eligible for this new daily testing policy, they must self-isolate for 10 days if they are a contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 – Omicron or not.

It is unfortunate to end this term with news that we are still battling against COVID-19 and in addition a new variant which is even more transmissible. I hope this Christmas we can all enjoy being with our families but also being mindful that we still need to be careful.

Students will be coming home this week with another supply of lateral flow tests so please continue to test regularly at home during the Christmas holidays.

On a positive note we have had a very successful year at St Martin's and I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff and students for their amazing hard work and dedication.

I would also like to thank all of you for your support with the students and the school, it is much appreciated.

Finally, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Smyrk', written over a faint, dotted grid background.

Ian Smyrk  
**Headteacher**