



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL - CHILDREN, YOUNG
PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Langley School

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

COVID Update

As you can probably imagine it has been a tricky start to the school term with the number of COVID cases amongst staff and pupils along with the ever-changing guidance. Only this morning we have had a webinar with the LA and Public Health Birmingham to give us as School Leaders guidance and advice in the current circumstances. As such I am now in a better position to give clarity to parents:

Main Messages

- COVID-19 infection rates are very high and the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly. It is important that we all take steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 infection in the community to save lives and protect the NHS.
- If your child has COVID-19 symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. You should arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible. If this PCR test result is positive, they must continue to self-isolate.
- If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself.
- LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even if you do not have symptoms.
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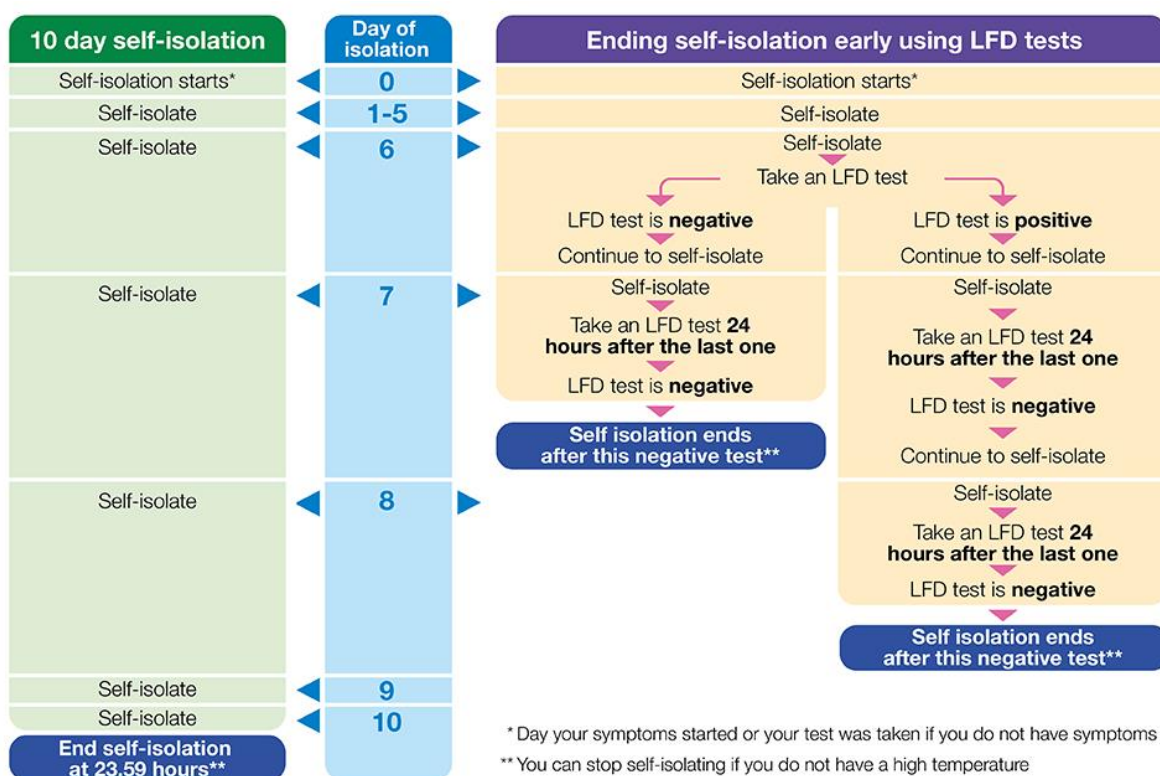
Your child has symptoms (high temperature (37.5 and over); new continuous cough; loss of taste or smell) or has received a positive COVID test result:

- If this happens in school we will isolate your child to try and prevent any further spread and then call you to collect your child immediately
- Keep your child at home
- Arrange for a PCR test (online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119) and inform the school of the result
- The isolation period starts immediately from when the symptoms started, or, if no symptoms, from when the positive LFD or PCR test was taken, whichever test was taken first. The isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if there are no symptoms), and the next 10 full days.
- You must follow advice if you are contacted by Test and Trace



CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

- Your child will be expected to isolate for 10 days – this could be reduced to 7 days if they have 2 negative LFDs on days 6 and 7 (taken at least 24 hours apart)



Close Contact

If your child is deemed a close contact e.g. in the same class or household as a person with COVID then we will ask you to:

- Monitor your child for symptoms – if they **do have symptoms** they must be kept at home and not sent into school and get a PCR test
- If your child remains **asymptomatic** then Lateral Flow Device Test (LFD) your child for the following 7 days only sending them into school if they have a negative result (if it is positive they must be kept at home)
- Report your LFD test results <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- Collect your child immediately from school should they develop symptoms and you receive a call from us. In this instance they will be isolated in school

Accessing LFD

The best way of getting LFD are

- via the website <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- Local Pharmacy
- Calling 119
- Pick up from a local community site <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Staff shortages

Given the unprecedented nature of the current spread of Omicron and the potential impact on staff shortages I wanted to reassure you that we will do all we can to keep children in school wherever possible while it remains safe to do so in terms of staffing levels.



I hope this information helps make the way we will be managing COVID in school clearer for you. I am obviously aware that the situation is changing rapidly on a day to day basis and we will do our best to keep you up to date.
Many thanks for working with us and supporting the Langley School Community to stay as safe as possible during these challenging times.
With my best wishes



Denise Fountain
Interim Head Teacher
Langley School

