



6th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT UPDATE re COVID-19 safety measures

Unfortunately we do now have some small but active outbreaks of COVID-19 in school and so, in consultation with Public Health, we are going to put in some **temporary** additional measures to control these quickly and to keep our school as safe as possible.

Changes to our guidance with immediate effect and lasting until the half term break:

- (1) All staff and pupils must wear a plain **face mask** in school (in communal areas AND in lessons) unless medically exempt.
- (2) Any pupil who lives in a **household where someone has tested positive** for COVID-19 must now self-isolate for 5 full days from the positive test date. During this time they should take a PCR test. If the result is negative, they can return to school on day 6 as long as they take a lateral flow test each day for the next 5 days. Home test kits are available from Student Services at school.
- (3) **External visitors to school will be minimised** and meetings should be held online where possible.

Year 7, 10 and 11

We have seen increased cases in particular in **Years 7, 10 and 11** and so Public Health are asking that **ALL pupils in these year groups now have a PCR test**. This will help us to identify and isolate cases, prevent onward transmission and minimise case rates. If the test is positive, your child must isolate for 10 days.

You can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test to book this test.

- You will be asked to identify whether your child has COVID symptoms. If your child has no symptoms, you should select 'No' for this answer and proceed through the questions until they get to the question: **Why are you asking for a test?**
- You should select the box that says - **I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional**
- And then the option that states: **My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms**
- You can then proceed to book the test.

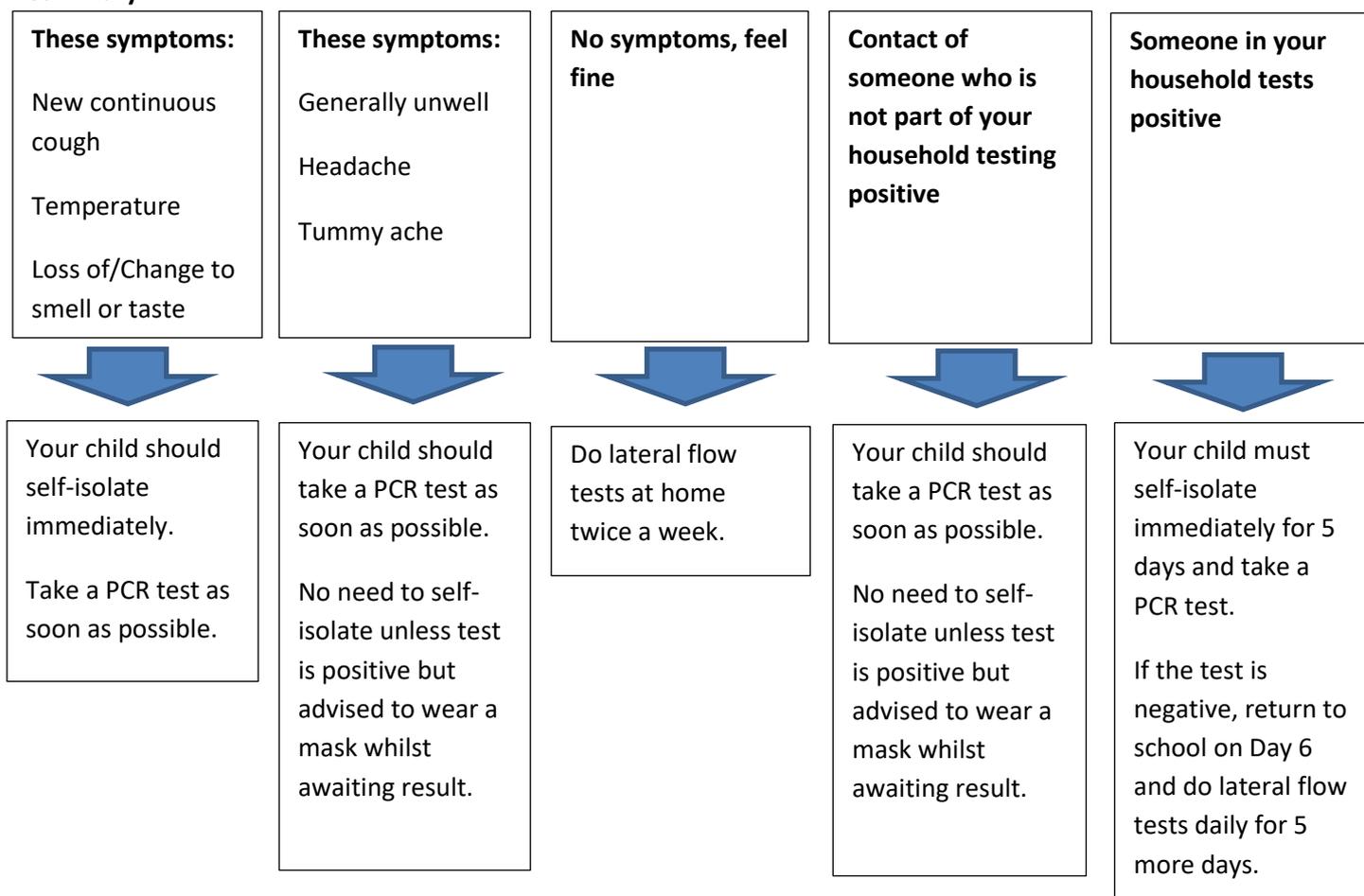
Staffing levels have been very difficult to manage this week and at times we have had no alternative but to put a small number of classes into the assembly hall to work under the supervision of a senior member of staff. I feel that this is preferable to the disruption that would be caused to families by having a year group on remote learning however the situation remains volatile. As a very last resort, we may need to move to VERY short term remote learning for a year group if we do not have adequate staffing for safe supervision of pupils; hopefully we will be able to avoid this.

We really need your help in the following ways:

- Ensure that your child takes a **lateral flow test twice each week** if they have no symptoms. New test kits were issued this week and these tests are nasal swabs only, giving a result in just 15 minutes. Pupils can collect additional kits from Student Services should they need them.
- **If your child has any of the main COVID symptoms they must NOT attend school.** They should self-isolate immediately and take a PCR test (not a lateral flow test). They should stay at home until they get their result; the rest of the family are not affected.
The main symptoms are a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of the sense of smell and/or taste.
- Younger people, however, may just feel generally unwell, have a headache or complain of tummy ache and **if your child has any of these symptoms, they should take a PCR test.**
- If anyone in your household tests positive, your child must self-isolate for 5 days and everyone in your household should take a PCR test.

IMPORTANT: a positive lateral flow test is a good indicator that a person is positive for COVID-19 and this should be confirmed by a PCR test. However, a **negative lateral flow result may NOT be accurate** and **anyone with any symptoms at all should take a PCR test.**

Summary:



We have been very fortunate up to this point that cases have been relatively low, however the Delta variant of COVID-19 is now impacting on schools across the country.

We have maintained many of our safety measures from last year and the vast majority of pupils and staff are fit and healthy so I am confident that with these additional measures in place, we can quickly curb this increase and minimise any disruption to learning.

Your support in this matter is very much appreciated!

Best wishes, keep safe

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ARadcliffe .". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Andrea Radcliffe
Headteacher