



3rd January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a lovely break with family and friends. Time to look ahead to the spring term in the hope that we can keep school running as smoothly as possible until the current coronavirus wave fades and allows us to return to our new version of normal.

We really need your help in ensuring that as many pupils as possible take a lateral flow test in school this week. This is now vital for two reasons: firstly so that pupils don't pass the virus to their peers (and peers' families) meaning that they have to miss learning time in school, and secondly to minimise the number of staff affected - one teacher absent for just one week affects approximately 630 learning hours and, I'm sure you will agree, our pupils learn much better with their own teachers. It is now also clear that we can have the virus more than once and so the testing etc is just as important for pupils who have already had Covid-19.

Lateral Flow Testing prior to returning to school.

The Government has directed that secondary schools must test all pupils for Covid-19 with lateral flow tests before they return in January. Here are the arrangements for testing this week.

Please contact school URGENTLY via admin@hydehighschool.uk if you would like to update consent details.

Returning to on-site learning		Lateral Flow Testing			
Wednesday 5 th January All year groups learning remotely.		Years 7 and 11 should attend for testing and will return straight home.			
		Year 7 by surname		Year 11 by surname	
		A-J	9:00am - 10:15am	A-J	1:00pm - 2:00pm
		K-Z	10:45am - 12:00pm	K-Z	2:00pm - 2:45pm
Thursday 6 th January Years 7 and 11 in school. Year 7 arrive for an 8:40am start Years 11 arrive for an 8:50am start Years 8, 9 and 10 learning remotely.		Years 8 and 10 should attend for testing and will return straight home.			
		Year 8 by surname		Year 10 by surname	
		A-M	8:45am - 10:00am	A-G	11:15am - 11:45am
		N-Z	10:30am - 11:15am	H-Z	1:00pm - 2:45pm

Friday 7 th January	Years 7, 8, 10, 11 in school.	Year 9 should attend for testing and will return straight home.	
	Year 7 start: 8:40am	Year 9 by surname	
	Year 8 start: 8:45am	A-L	9:00am - 10:15am
	Year 10 start: 8:50am Year 11 start: 8:50am	M-Z	11:00am - 12:00pm
	Year 9 learning remotely.		
From Monday 10 th January	All year groups in as normal.	Start time	Finish time
	Year 7	8:40am (Arrive on site from 8:35)	2:35pm
	Years 8 and 9	8:45am (Arrive on site from 8:40)	2:40pm
	Years 10 and 11	8:50am (Arrive on site from 8:45)	2:45pm

Pupils who have previously tested positive for Covid-19 **can** still be tested as long as they have completed the 10-day isolation period and are symptom free.

Once term is underway, we really appreciate your continued support in the following ways:

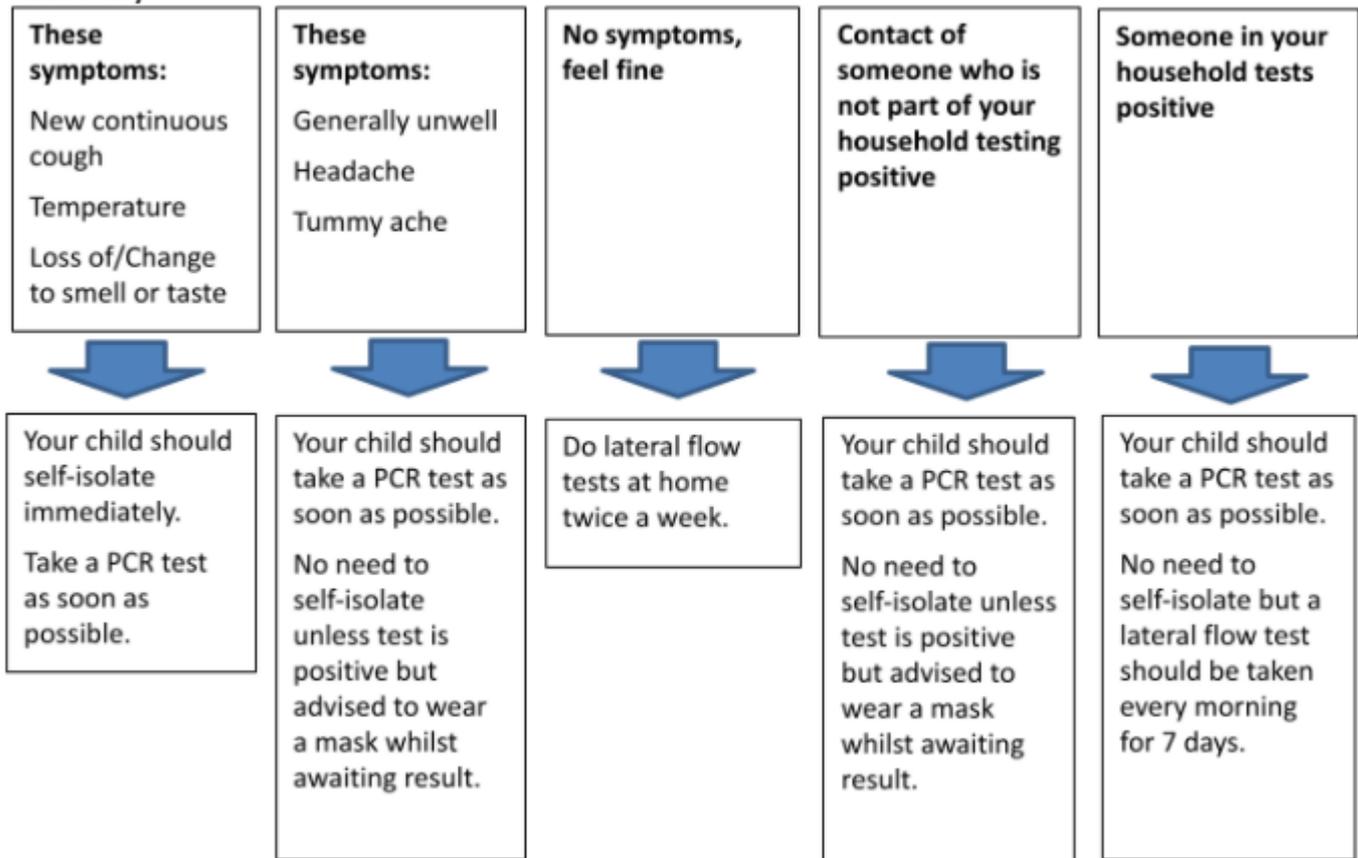
- Ensure that your child takes **a lateral flow test twice each week** if they have no symptoms. New test kits will be issued regularly and these tests are nasal swabs only, giving a result in just 15 minutes. Pupils can collect additional kits from Student Services should they need them.
- **If your child develops 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 do not need to self-isolate.

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, everyone in your household should take a PCR test and children should take a lateral flow test each morning for a week to check for a negative result before coming to school.

Please note the updated guidance below relating to Covid symptoms:

Summary:



Changes to the guidance for self-isolation after a positive PCR result

Anyone receiving a positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR test result must complete a period of self-isolation. The isolation period includes the day the symptoms started (or the day their PCR test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

Pupils may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days.

They can take an LFD test from the sixth day of their isolation period, and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both LFD tests results are negative, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative LFD test result. They should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of their isolation period and should only end their self-isolation following 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart.

Pupils may then return to school the following day if they meet the following criteria:

- they must not have any COVID-19 symptoms
- they must undertake daily LFD tests for the remaining days of the isolation period. For example, if the first LFD test was taken on the sixth day, and the second LFD test was taken on the seventh day, they should continue to take LFD tests on day 8, 9 and 10. If the first LFD test was taken on the seventh day and the second LFD test was taken on the eighth day, they should continue to take LFD tests on day 9 and 10
- if any of these LFD test results are positive the pupil must isolate and should wait 24 hours before taking the next LFD test.

Face Masks in school

As I'm sure you are aware, face masks are now compulsory for secondary school pupils including in classrooms and they will remain compulsory in communal areas for the foreseeable future. Last term many of our pupils were brilliant at bringing a mask to school every day however a significant minority simply didn't bother. We do have a small stock of masks for when pupils occasionally forget, but we do need all pupils to bring a mask every day please. Pupils who are medically exempt from wearing a mask must wear their lanyard or have their card to hand so that staff know who they are.

School uniform

Pupils do not need to wear uniform when they attend for their lateral flow test this week. Full uniform rules apply from their first full day in school and just a reminder that non-Hyde hoodies are not allowed inside the building at any time and will be confiscated if worn. Year 10 and Year 11 pupils should have a black PE hoodie - if you need support with this, please contact your child's Head of Year. Shoes must be plain black; trainers are not allowed on non-PE days. Blazers must be worn at all times in school (except for PE days).

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th January is Year 10 Parents' Evening. This will take place online this year and full details and booking instructions can be found [here](#).

Early notice that the final INSET day for this year is calendared for Friday 28th January and school will be closed to pupils on that day.

Covid aside, we have another busy term ahead and we look forward to working with you in 2022. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you feel that your child may need some additional help or support with their wellbeing this term; our experienced pastoral team are happy to help.

Thank you again for your support for the testing programme as we begin the new term.

Best wishes, keep safe,



Andrea Radcliffe
Headteacher