

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation and to provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

Some likely scenarios are described below along with our advice:

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

Plans for COVID-19 testing in Secondary Schools

All secondary school pupils (year 7 and above) should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

Secondary school pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. By ensuring your child correctly carries out the lateral flow tests, it will be easier to spot asymptomatic spread amongst pupils. A positive Lateral Flow Test should always be followed up with a PCR test and the person testing should isolate until the results are back. We will provide further details on whether testing will continue when we are made aware.

ACCESSING COVID-19 TESTING IN LANCASHIRE

Symptomatic testing and testing for close contacts

PCR tests can be booked at any of the DHSC run sites that operate Monday – Sunday 8am – 8pm on the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Testing site at Westgate, Skelmersdale

A testing site is open on the overflow car park close to Sandy Lane Health Centre in Skelmersdale. The site will be open 8am–8pm seven days a week, except for Bank Holiday Monday 3 May when testing will take place between 8am and 1.30pm. Tests need to be booked in advance on the [NHS.uk dedicated COVID-19 testing site](#). Between 2.30pm and 8pm people will be able to pick up lateral flow tests to use at home.

Although it is close to the health centre and behind the shops on Sandy Lane, the full address of the site is: **Westgate Overflow Car Park, Westgate, Skelmersdale, WN8 8LJ.**

Testing site at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk

A testing site is available on the tennis courts at Edge Hill University seven days a week between 8am and 8pm, except for Bank Holiday Monday 3 May when testing will take place between 8am and 1.30pm. Tests need to be booked in advance on the [NHS.uk dedicated COVID-19 testing site](#). Between 2.30pm and 8pm people will be able to pick up lateral flow tests to use at home.

This site is open to local residents as well as students. Tests must be booked in advance and the test site is accessed on foot. If you arrive by car, you will be asked to park your vehicle and walk to the testing site ready for your appointed time. If you arrive on foot, you will be directed by testing facility staff upon arrival and asked to follow clearly marked routes which avoid accessing the main areas of campus itself.

Members of the public attending for a booked test have been asked not to use any facilities on site during their visit and to follow the planned routes to reach the testing site and then leave the campus once they have taken their test.

The Edge Hill University address is: **Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP.**

PCR tests for home delivery can also be ordered by calling 119.