



# The William Henry Smith School

20 January 2022

Dear Families,

I hope all is well.

Since my letter at the start of term, there have been further changes to the Covid guidance, both nationally and locally, and I am now enclosing a summary of the current guidance for students is below:

## **Positive cases**

The local guidance for students has now been amended in line with the new national guidance for the self-isolation period following a positive Covid 19 test. This means that guidance for both adults and students testing positive are now the same, which has now been reduced further:-

- From 11th January, as a temporary measure, anyone who tests positive on a Lateral Flow test will be required to self-isolate immediately and does not need to take a confirmatory PCR test.
- Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.
- You may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take daily Lateral Flow tests from Day 5 of your isolation period. If you receive two negative Lateral Flow test results on consecutive days, you can end your isolation if you do not have a high temperature and do not feel unwell. You can end your isolation as soon as you have your second negative test result.

This means that some students will be able to return to school on Day 6. A cough or loss or change to your sense of taste or smell can persist for several weeks, and on their own do not require you to continue isolating.

## **Contacts of positive cases**

There is just a slight change to the below guidance in terms of when to get a PCR test and to the isolation for children when there is a positive household case:

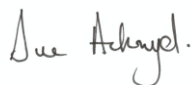
- You are legally required to self-isolate for 10 days unless you are fully vaccinated, or you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- If you are not required to isolate, you should take a Lateral Flow test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. Children under the age of 5 are not advised to take part in daily Lateral Flow testing.
- Take a single PCR test as soon as possible while you are self-isolating. However, if you have previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result within the last 90 days you should not take another PCR test unless you develop symptoms. When there is a surge in COVID-19 cases it may be difficult for people without symptoms to book a PCR test slot locally. If you aren't able to book a PCR test, it's important to keep doing daily Lateral Flow tests



Locally, Calderdale have advised that where someone in the household has tested positive, school-aged children should undertake daily Lateral Flow testing for 7 days (in line with national guidance) but that they should stay off school until after they have taken their Day 3 Lateral Flow test, returning on Day 3 only if tests on Day 1-3 are negative.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I appreciate changes are often be confusing, and should any families have any queries or be unsure of the guidance, please contact the school.

Best wishes,



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Principal

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