

Health and Safety Bulletin 2022 No. 06

1. Persons with Covid-19 symptoms and positive tests 2. LFD test kit distribution

Introduction.

There are no changes to the Covid RA this week. Please find below details of issues that have arisen recently.

General Issues to Consider.

1. Persons with Covid-19 symptoms - a number of schools have contacted us this week as parents have challenged them when asking for symptomatic children to be taken home and for them to undertake a PCR test.

To clarify – whilst it is no longer a legal requirement to isolate, the government still advises that persons with Covid-19 symptoms isolate and get a PCR test. Persons who test positive for Covid-19 are also advised to isolate.

In line with this, the LCC baseline is that:

- Staff and pupils who have one or more of the main Covid-19 symptoms should not be in school and should get a PCR test.
- All persons who test positive for Covid-19 (by PCR or LFD test) should self-isolate and not be in school for 10 full days. They may return early after day 5 if they have 2 consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart and do not have a high temperature.
- If they refuse to test, or cannot test, either initially or to return early, they should complete the 10 full days out of school.

Schools who:

- are experiencing difficulties with parents / carers / staff accepting this,
- have safeguarding concerns which mean it may be safer for a child to continue to attend school, or
- have staff / children whose medical conditions mean they regularly display one of the symptoms e.g a persistent cough,

can contact us for advice and support if needed.

2. LFD test kit distribution – the DfE have advised that schools can give existing stocks of LFD tests to staff and pupils to help them test in line with current guidance e.g if they are visiting someone who is at higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, or they have tested positive for COVID-19 and want to carry out LFD tests from day 5 to return to school early. This may help staff and pupils who are struggling to access tests.

They have also advised that additional orders should not be placed for this purpose.

Originator – Schools Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team. **Circulation** – Schools.