

Dear members of the Langley community,

I do hope you have enjoyed a restful Christmas break. Whilst Covid cases have risen considerably there has been little change to school's guidance, this of course could change as we move into the New Year; we will continue to monitor this carefully.

The main area of focus continues to be around regular routine lateral flow testing (year 7 and above), wearing face coverings in communal areas and on the school buses, regular handwashing and hand sanitisation and increased room ventilation throughout the day, wherever possible.

We have, as of yesterday, had another full site (Prep and Senior) and minibus anti-microbial treatment and are in receipt of further lateral flow home testing kits ensuring we have sufficient supply for our pupils (year 7 and above), students and staff.

The main change since Michaelmas term surrounds close contact testing and isolation, I have included below a Department for Education update, please do read through this carefully and come back to coronaupdate@langleschool.co.uk should you have any questions or concerns.

A text reminder will be sent to all parents of pupils/students (year 7 and above) and staff with regards to recommencing twice weekly lateral flow testing prior to returning to school. Please do ensure if your child is part of the testing programme that they recommence twice weekly testing **before the start of Lent term** and report each test to the school portal as well as NHS test and trace. Staff should also recommence regular testing prior to return and report in the usual way.

As always, please do keep an eye on the COVID-19 link on the Langley website for the latest updates.

Kind regards

Rachel Smith

Director of Compliance and Operations

Department of Education (DfE) Update



What is daily testing of contacts and why is it needed?

From 14 December, a new national daily testing of contacts of Covid policy was introduced due to rising Omicron infections. This applies to everyone aged 5 and above so includes those in schools, colleges, universities, and early years settings.

This means that **if someone is a contact of any positive Covid-19 case they should take an LFD test each day for 7 days** (or ten days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for Covid-19 if this is earlier), **and report the results via the [online reporting system](#)** and the schools reporting portal.

This is to help protect education settings by identifying cases earlier, reducing transmission, helping keep pupils and students in face-to-face education.

How will it work?

The process for [identifying contacts has not changed](#) and will continue to be managed by NHS Test & Trace.

Once an individual is notified by NHS Test and Trace that they are a contact, they **should take an LFD test each day for 7 days** (or ten days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for Covid-19 if this is earlier), and **report the results via the [online reporting system](#)** and the school's reporting portal.

It is advised that **the daily LFD test is taken before leaving the house** for the first time of that day. If the **test is negative, you can continue to attend the setting**, but should follow national guidance and remain cautious around vulnerable people.

Who does daily testing apply to?

The Government has introduced daily contact testing for those adults, including education staff, who are:

- fully vaccinated (those who have had two doses of an approved vaccine or more)
- people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons
- people taking part or who have taken part in an approved clinical trial for a Covid-19 vaccine.

It has also been introduced for:

- Children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status.

Please note: Staff and year 7 and above may continue to collect their home testing kits from school, pupil and students Reception to year 6 should continue to use tests obtained direct from gov.com or from local pharmacists.

Is taking part in daily testing mandatory?

As with all testing, daily contact testing is voluntary **although strongly encouraged** to help keep everyone safe.

Schools and colleges are not responsible for monitoring which students have been identified as a contact and whether these pupils are undertaking daily testing of contacts of Covid.

Pupils with special educational needs and disability (SEND) identified as close contacts should be supported by their education setting and their families to agree the most appropriate route for testing including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing.