



LONG Sutton County Primary School
Parental Guidance – January 2022

This most up-to-date guidance, provided by Lincolnshire County Council's Health Protection Team supports the decision making and management of positive cases within our school setting. It includes:-

- *Measures to follow all the time
- *Enhanced measures for multiple cases
- *How to establish whether cases are linked within our setting
- *How to deal with multiple clusters of linked cases within our setting

We ask that you work with the school in informing us as soon as possible if you suspect that your child has symptoms or has a confirmed positive test. You can contact the school on 01406 363381 or enquiries@longsuttonprimary.co.uk

SEE BELOW FOR MEASURES TO FOLLOW ALL OF THE TIME



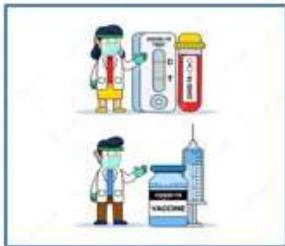
- Emphasise good hand washing technique – sanitising gel should only be used if there is no alternative.
- Washing hands with soap and water is better at reducing transmission of Covid-19 but also reduces the risk of spreading other infectious diseases such as sickness, diarrhoea, colds or flu.



- In secondary schools, face coverings should be worn by all person when moving around the premises (i.e. in corridors, communal areas, and in classrooms and teaching spaces) and on school transport.
- In primary schools and early years settings, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas.

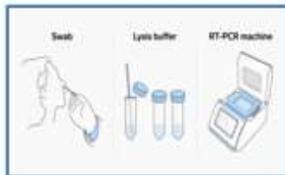


- Comprehensive information on the HSE website.
- Keep windows open where possible – including just top windows when the weather gets colder.
- Purge rooms during break times when pupils are not there or staff rooms during lesson times when staff are not there – open all doors and windows to let the air blow through.
- Where space and weather permits, carry out activities outdoors as much as possible.



- Strongly encourage all those eligible to carry out twice weekly LFD testing.

- Strongly encourage all those who are eligible to get vaccinated.



- Emphasise messages regarding not coming to school if symptomatic and to get a PCR test.
- Emphasise message of isolating if tested positive or if a close contact and not: doubly vaccinated, under 18 years and 6 months or medically exempt from vaccination.
- Provide clear instructions on informing the school of a positive test.
- Request close contacts of a case to get a PCR test within two days of being in close contact and carrying out a further LFD test five days after being in close contact.



- Carry out regular cleaning, particularly of common touch points or busy areas.

UPDATED SELF-ISOLATION RULES FOR POSITIVE CASES

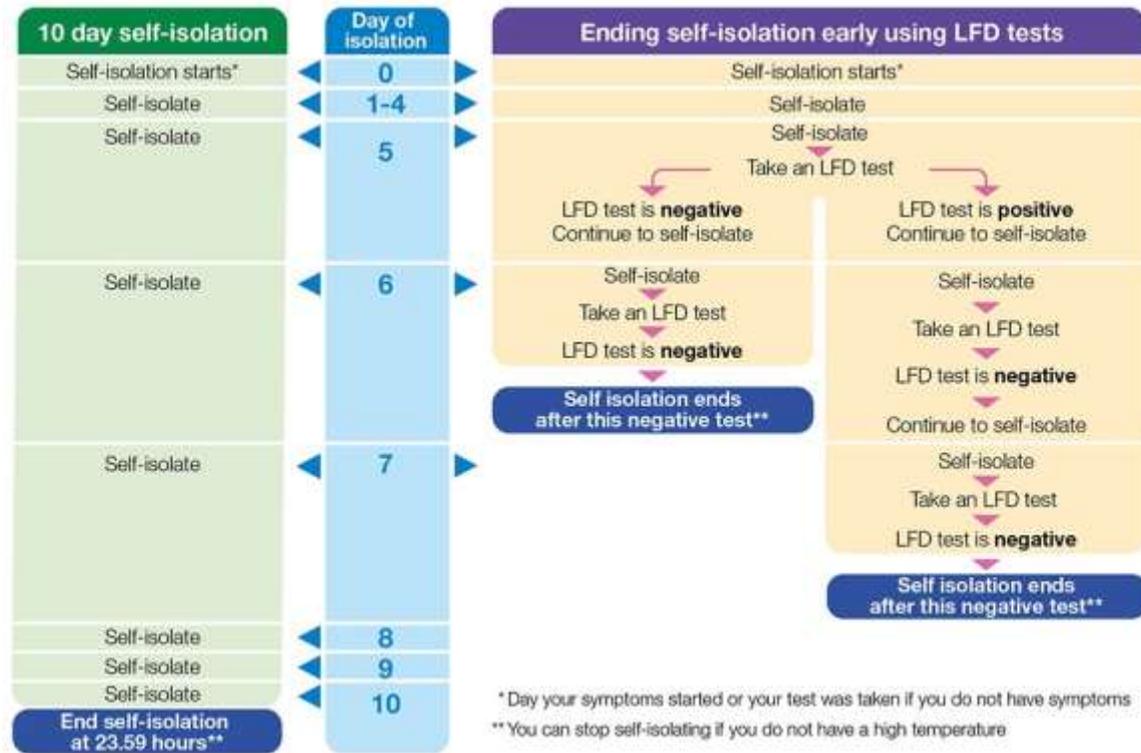
Individuals who test positive for Covid-19 should immediately self-isolate for 10 days, in line with the following national guidance: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

Individuals may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. Individuals can take an LFD test from 5 days **after** the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, individuals may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result.

Individuals must report their LFD test results after taking each test. Individuals should not take an LFD test before the fifth day of their self-isolation period, and they should only end their self-isolation after they have had 2 negative LFD tests taken on consecutive days. Individuals should stop testing after they have had 2 consecutive negative test results.

This guidance also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

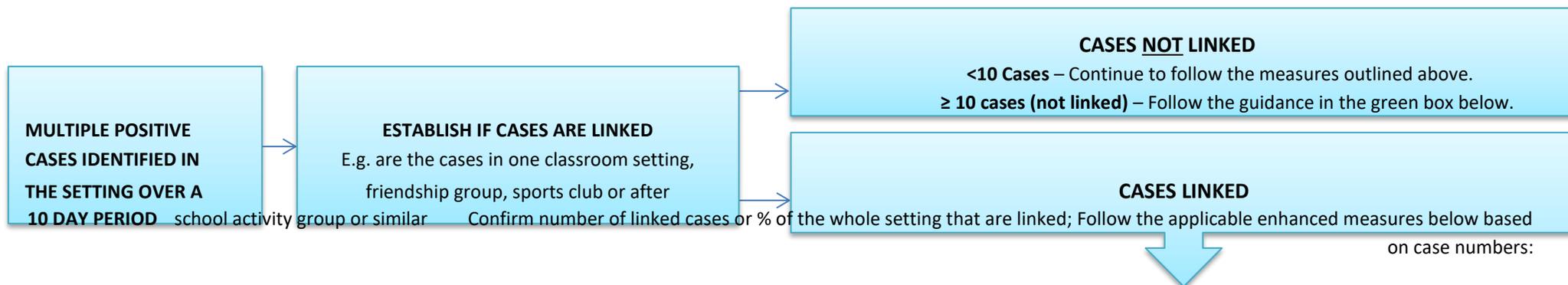
Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



ENHANCED MEASURES FOR MULTIPLE CASES

Please note that the following measures apply to all settings except SEND and boarding settings, who should contact Lincolnshire Health Protection Team for immediate support if 2 or more cases identified.

Considering the increased case rates in Lincolnshire, and the reduced severity of the Omicron variant, the Director of Public Health for Lincolnshire has revised the thresholds for reporting and consideration of enhanced measures in schools; please see the charts below for further information. This approach is supported by the increased vaccination coverage across Lincolnshire, bolstered by the updated guidance for all close contacts of a positive case to take an LFD test every day for 7 days, subject to certain criteria.



GREEN: LESS THAN TEN CASES THAT ARE LINKED IN A SETTING OVER A 10 DAY PERIOD OR MORE THAN 10 CASES THAT ARE NOT LINKED IN A SETTING

- Ensure all cases isolate at home for 10 days from first symptom or positive result whichever is the earliest. Individuals may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days, as outlined in the 'Updated Self-Isolation Rules for Positive Cases' section [above](#).
- Close contacts are those who have sat closest to the case (e.g. at the same table) within the classroom or indoors break area/staff room or staff who may have worked within 1 metre of the case for more than 1 minute.
- Ask close contacts of a case to do a PCR test (they do not need to leave school early to do this and do not need to isolate while waiting results if they have no symptoms) or an LFD if unable to access the PCR test.
- Children who are 4 and under are advised not to do a PCR test unless the positive case was someone in their own household.
- Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.
- Anyone who goes on to develop symptoms should stay at home and get another PCR test.
- Ask students to sit in the same place every day and for each of their classes if they go to separate classrooms during the day so that wherever possible they are sitting next to the same people when they share the same classes.

YELLOW: 10 – 30 CASES OR 20% OF THE WHOLE SETTING THAT ARE LINKED IN THE SETTING OVER A 10 DAY PERIOD

In addition to previous measures:

Inform Lincolnshire Public Health if not already aware (healthprotectionteam@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

- **If cases are linked across classroom settings**
 - Increase cleaning of common touch points such as toilets etc.
 - Where possible keep students within the same classroom setting (primary school) to reduce mixing with other classes.
 - Where possible ensure students sit next to the same students in all classes including form and other subject classes (secondary school).
 - Where possible arrange seating so that students are sitting in pairs, facing one direction only and sit next to the same student.
 - Explore other potential areas of mixing and, where possible, introduce measures to prevent as much mixing as possible e.g. virtual assemblies.

- **If cases are linked within one classroom setting:**
 - Recommend all students within the classroom setting to have a PCR test.
 - Recommend all students within the classroom setting to complete 7 days of LFD testing, as per the close contact testing.
 - Restrict where possible all mixing between this class and other classes including at break times.
 - Where possible restrict the affected class to one toilet block and increase cleaning.
 - Where possible create additional space between tables, ask students to sit in pairs and facing forwards; keep to the same seating arrangements.
 - For an agreed temporary period, consider restricting school trips or outings, open days or performances for this class or ask students/staff to provide a negative LFD beforehand particularly those which may be more risk such as indoor sports or singing clubs.
 - For an agreed temporary period, consider restricting access to after school clubs or activities.
 - Consider carrying out twice weekly on site LFD testing for this one class for a period of two weeks (secondary school).
 - Consider one off enhanced cleaning.
- **For cases linked within the same friendship/sporting/after school group**
 - Identify close contacts and ask them to have a PCR test.
 - Recommend all close contacts to complete 7 days of LFD testing, as per the close contact testing.
 - Recommend all contacts within a friendship group have a PCR test and complete 7 days of LFD testing, as per the close contact testing.
 - For indoor sports activities or singing clubs consider recommending the whole team to have a PCR test (depending on the sport and nature of activity – for example high exertion activity within a confined space is a higher risk and therefore all club members should test) and to complete 7 days of LFD testing, as per the close contact testing.

AMBER: 31 – 60 CASES OR 30% OF THE WHOLE SETTING THAT ARE LINKED IN THE SETTING OVER A 10 DAY PERIOD

At this stage an outbreak control meeting may be considered for discussions regarding potential measures. This would involve the school, Lincolnshire Health Protection Team, UKHSA and DfE (if required). In addition to previous measure in Green and Yellow above, additional measures could include:

- **If cases are linked across classroom settings**

- Recommendation for testing across the affected classrooms.
- Restricting mixing between affected classroom settings and other classes
- Recommend twice weekly on-site LFD testing for a limited period of time (secondary schools).
- Staggering break and lunch times to reduce mixing with other classes

- **If cases are linked within one classroom setting**

- Consider whole class on-site supervised testing (surge testing).

- **If cases are linked within one friendship group/sports club**

- Consider whole group/club testing
- Consider temporary suspension of club/activity for two weeks in the first instance

RED: 61+ CASES OR 40% OR MORE OF THE WHOLE SETTING THAT ARE LINKED IN THE SETTING OVER A 10 DAY PERIOD

At this stage an outbreak control meeting will be called for discussions regarding potential additional measures. This would involve the school, Lincolnshire Health Protection Team, UKHSA and DfE (if required). In addition to previous measure in Green, Yellow, and Amber above, additional measures could include:

- Recommence twice weekly on-site LFD testing for a limited period of time (secondary schools).
- Consider on-site supervised testing across the whole setting (surge testing).
- Recommend restriction of trips, open days or performances.
- Recommend restricted access to school premises for after school clubs or activities. ○ Recommend restriction on external visitors, including parents (unless for safeguarding reasons)

HOW SCHOOLS ESTABLISH WHETHER CASES ARE LINKED WITHIN THE SETTING

The Lincolnshire Health Protection Team support schools with this process.

- The following would not be considered as linked within a setting:
 - Positive siblings or staff/students from the same family (though note that this should not be ignored/ discounted if there is a wider outbreak as it may be a potential route of transmission across classes/year groups).
 - Students or staff who have tested positive but who have not been school for at least seven days before onset of symptoms or date of positive test (whichever is earliest).
 - Positive cases in different year groups or classes where there has been no close mixing between classes/year groups.
- The following examples would be considered as linked within the setting (not an exhaustive list):
 - Positive cases where cases have spent at least 1 minute less than 1 metre apart or at least 15 minutes 2 metres apart for example:
 - ✦ Sitting at the same table or mixing during class, break or lunch
 - ✦ Close 1:1 work with a student/teacher
 - ✦ Contact sports
 - ✦ Team indoor sports activity

DEALING WITH MULTIPLE CLUSTERS OF LINKED CASES WITHIN THE SETTING

In line with the Contingency Framework, focus has shifted to a more targeted approach of implementing enhanced precautions where cases are linked within education settings via close mixing, instead of the broad-stroke measures such as immediate closure of a bubble or year group.

It is possible therefore that settings may experience two or more clusters of linked cases, which when dealt with separately may or may not meet the thresholds for enhanced measures. The identification of separate clusters is an important part of the clinical risk assessment and the Health Protection Team will support schools to establish whether clusters of cases are linked.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

In the event that Amber or Red mitigation measures need to be implemented, the Health Protection Team may provide additional supportive resources, which will be determined on a case by case basis and may include:

- Letter to Parents/ Carers from the Director of Public Health (DPH) to support PCR testing of close contacts;
- Letter to Parents/ Carers from the DPH to support 7-day LFD testing of close contacts
- Deployment of DPH resources to support on-site/ surge testing;
- Regular monitoring and review of case numbers with HPT clinicians;
- Dedicated out-of-hours contact point for urgent enquiries, such as situations where service provision may be impacted due to loss of staff, or if considering stopping face-to-face teaching for parts/ all of the setting.