



Tuesday 4th January 2022

RE: COVID Update Spring Term

Dear Families,

Happy New Year!

I hope that you have all enjoyed the last two weeks and have had some quality family time together. We are looking forward to seeing you all again on Thursday 6th January to start the Spring term.

On Sunday (2nd January) the Department for Education emailed all Headteachers with an update, prior to our return. I have shared the relevant content of this update for you below.

Updated Government Guidelines

Current Practice

The majority of guidelines issued on 2nd January do not apply to primary-aged pupils and as such, there are no significant changes to our practice at Longmeadow. We implemented aspects of our outbreak management plan throughout the Autumn Term and successfully managed to keep the school open at all times. Therefore, I have made the decision to keep the majority of these practices in place at the start of the Spring Term. These include:

- Regular handwashing for staff and pupils
- Encouraging good respiratory hygiene for all through 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Completing assemblies as class assemblies and not meeting together as a whole school
- Ventilation of classrooms and shared spaces – including the assessment of ventilation through carbon monoxide monitors - as recommended by the Government
- Allowing parental attendance on site – in line with our outbreak management plan
- Ensuring face coverings are worn by all parents and carers when on site (unless exempt)
- Staff will wear face coverings when not in their own classroom

Full details of measures being taken are outlined in the schools outbreak management plan. This also outlines any steps we will take in the case of an outbreak. The plan can be found on our website.

Positive Cases and Isolation

From 22nd December, changes came into force relating to the isolation period for confirmed positive Covid cases. The previous ten-day period of isolation has now been reduced to seven days, providing the positive case can return a negative Lateral Flow test result on day six and day seven. The first test must be taken no earlier than day six and the

two tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If the tests continue to return as positive, then the 10 days isolation should remain. After 10 days, children can return to school (even with a positive LFT) so long as they do not have a temperature or sickness and diarrhea. If they do they should return 48 hours after these symptoms stop. Further details on isolation can be found in a flow chart at the end of this letter.

Anyone who is unable to carry out a lateral flow test should complete the full ten-day isolation period.

We will continue to log positive cases in school and use the information provided by you to track absence and also update the local authority, when appropriate. For this reason, please do let the school office know if your child is not going to be in school and also the reason for the absence. This can be done by calling the school office on 01438 351087 or by emailing them at admin@longmeadow.herts.sch.uk. The office team will be following up any unexplained absences on a regular basis so providing full information on symptoms helps reduce the number of phone calls being made each day.

Children (and fully vaccinated adults) who have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, are asked to take a Lateral Flow Test daily (LFTs) rather than isolate, and as long as they deliver negative results, they should continue to attend school. If they return a positive result or have symptoms, then they should isolate and request a PCR test. Depending on the outcome they can follow the timings for isolation as above. We will continue to update you when we have positive cases in school.

Remote Provision

Longmeadow is fully prepared for remote learning should this be necessary. Pupils who are not attending school for Covid reasons and who are well enough, will be able to access remote provision via your child's class teacher. Your child's teacher will make contact to make sure you have everything needed for the time they are off. Your child's MSTEams account has been updated and we have archived all of the work from previous remote learning (relevant to their current year group) and so we are sure there will be plenty of remote learning available to you should your child need to isolate. If a child is off school because they are generally unwell and this is not COVID related, then this provision should not be accessed. As soon as they are well enough, they should return to school.

In its latest set of guidance, the government has made it possible to switch to remote provision for a class or group of pupils should a school not be able to adequately (and safely) staff the teaching in school. We are anticipating staff shortages to be an issue during the Spring term, due to staff isolation. If we do need to move to remote learning for any reason, you will be informed via School Comms. Please ensure you have a School Comms account with us. If you don't, please contact the school office who will be able to help you with this. Moving to remote learning will always be for as short a period as possible and of course, will very much be a last resort. We hope that if families adhere carefully to the above advice then it will avoid staff testing positive as the new variant is clearly very contagious.

If your child is currently positive with COVID please do email admin@longmeadow.herts.sch.uk with their isolation dates to allow us to amend the register accordingly prior to the school term and your child's teacher can make any necessary contact.

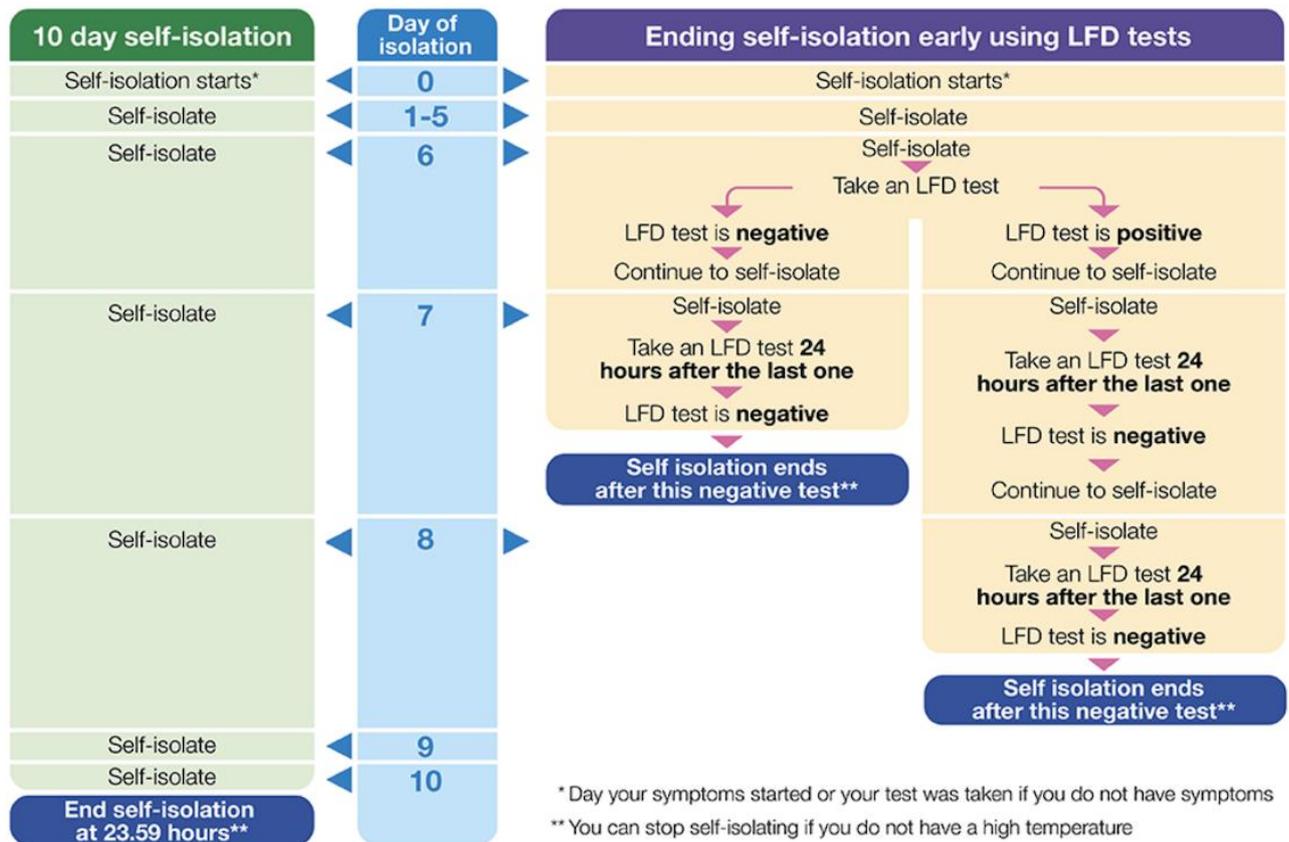
Looking forward to seeing you all again on Thursday!

Best wishes,



Emily Howley
Headteacher

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



This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), you may take daily LFD tests from the 21st of the month. If your LFD test results are negative on the 21st and 22nd, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your isolation period after the negative test result on the 22nd of the month.