

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Daily Testing for 7 days following the end of the school term**

As we reach the end of term, I want to thank you again for all your support during such a challenging time.

Hopefully, all our children, young people, families and staff will have a great break. As you will be aware, cases of COVID-19 are rising across the country, including in Wigan. We are also seeing cases of the new variant, Omicron.

All contacts of COVID-19 cases are now being advised to carry out rapid COVID tests (also known as LFD tests) for seven days. This ensures that individuals who have caught COVID are identified quickly and will stop the spread through our communities.

**As we have seen an increase in cases within our school staff, children and young people, as a precautionary measure, we are recommending all pupils and staff take daily LFD tests for 7 days following the end of the school term.** This will help quickly identify whether pupils or staff have contracted COVID-19 and will help to keep our families safe over the festive break.

You can collect LFD tests from many places in Wigan as well as having them delivered to your house. Please follow this link to see where you can obtain a test

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Crime-Emergencies/Coronavirus/Request-a-Lateral-Flow-home-test-kit.aspx> or you can order tests for home delivery here:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If an LFD Test result is positive, you must isolate for 10 days and should take a confirmatory PCR test which can be booked via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. Close contacts of your child must also then isolate and take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days. If the LFD Test result is negative, you and other members of your household can continue normal activities. Children aged under 5 years old are not advised to take daily LFD Tests. We are asking that you participate in this testing even if you have previously had a COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days. This is because we know people can be infected with Omicron even when they have had a previous COVID-19 infection.

If at any point you develop symptoms or feel unwell, please book a PCR test even if you have had a negative LFD Test

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. Further details are available via: [Test and Trace Support Payment \(wigan.gov.uk\)](https://www.wigan.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment)

Thank you again for all your support

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Arden', written in a cursive style.

Professor Kate Arden MBChB MSc FFPH  
Director of Public Health