



Diocese of Middlesbrough



# ALL SAINTS RC SCHOOL

Diocese of Middlesbrough  
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Dear Parent/Carer

It is important that we protect our young people and staff against the new Covid variant. This message will outline our **expectations regarding testing on return to school after Christmas** and the **new guidance** issued earlier this week from the DfE.

## Expectations regarding testing for your child's return to school

The Government has asked students to complete **two lateral flow tests** before they return in January. Public Health advice is that as students are now familiar with home testing and therefore we would expect that most students would be confident in carrying out a home test before their return to school. These tests should be carried out as a minimum on **Thursday 30 December and Monday 3 January 2022. Please report the results of these tests to both the Government and School using the links below:**

School - <https://forms.gle/zgZuQgBbKD4QRMTx6>

Government - [Online Reporting System](#)

**Please note, anyone who has received a positive (PCR) COVID-19 test result should not be re-tested (LFT or PCR) within 90 days of that test unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.** If you have any questions or concerns please contact 119.

For those who would prefer support with testing, details of LFT test sites in York are listed below. **These tests are for asymptomatic testing only.** If your child has any symptoms of coronavirus such as a high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to the sense of taste or smell, you should not send them to school, book a PCR test and continue to isolate until you receive the results.

## Getting a symptom-free test

You are able to book an appointment in advance at one of the sites listed below, or you can attend without an appointment.



Compassion



Truth



Respect



Forgiveness



Justice



Service



Gentleness



Humility



Stewardship

- Foxwood Community Centre, Cranfield Place, YO24 3HY
- University of York, Wentworth Way, Heslington, YO10 5NA
- York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, YO31 7EX

You can see details of all [symptom-free testing sites, test pick-up locations and opening times](#) on NHS.UK.

### **Test Kits**

As a school we will be sending a further pack of test kits home with your son / daughter on Thursday of this week. If you require additional test kits during the Christmas holidays, you can contact 119 to request an emergency replenishment or alternatively [LFD test kits are available to order through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

It is important to continue regular twice weekly testing throughout the holidays. **Our school test dates are Sunday and Wednesday.**

### **Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, who are identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to school using the links above. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests. Please continue to send a copy of all PCR test results, both positive and negative, into the school Attendance Team ([attendance@allsaints.york.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@allsaints.york.sch.uk)).

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months, who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with Government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case. For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.

### **Update on COVID-19 vaccinations**

The new Omicron COVID-19 variant is spreading fast. Anyone who is unvaccinated or who hasn't had their booster is at even greater risk from COVID-19 and more serious illness. Vaccines are the best way we can protect ourselves and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education.

People aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. You can pre-book your booster dose online if it has been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose and you are:

- aged 30 and over
- aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19
- a frontline health or social care worker

You will be offered appointment dates from 3 months after the date of your 2nd dose.

All 16 and 17 year olds are eligible for two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. They can book an appointment through the [national booking system](#) and walk in centres are available.

The Health and Social Care Secretary announced on Monday 29 November that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will also be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from JCVI. Parents of children aged 12 to 15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the [national booking system](#).

Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the [COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance](#).

[Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination](#) and booking a vaccination can be found on [NHS.UK](#).

An information leaflet on [what to expect after vaccination](#) is available to download or order.

Yours Sincerely



Mrs S L Keelan-Beardsley  
**HEADTEACHER**