



Ref: CovidUpdate/CTY/hll

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

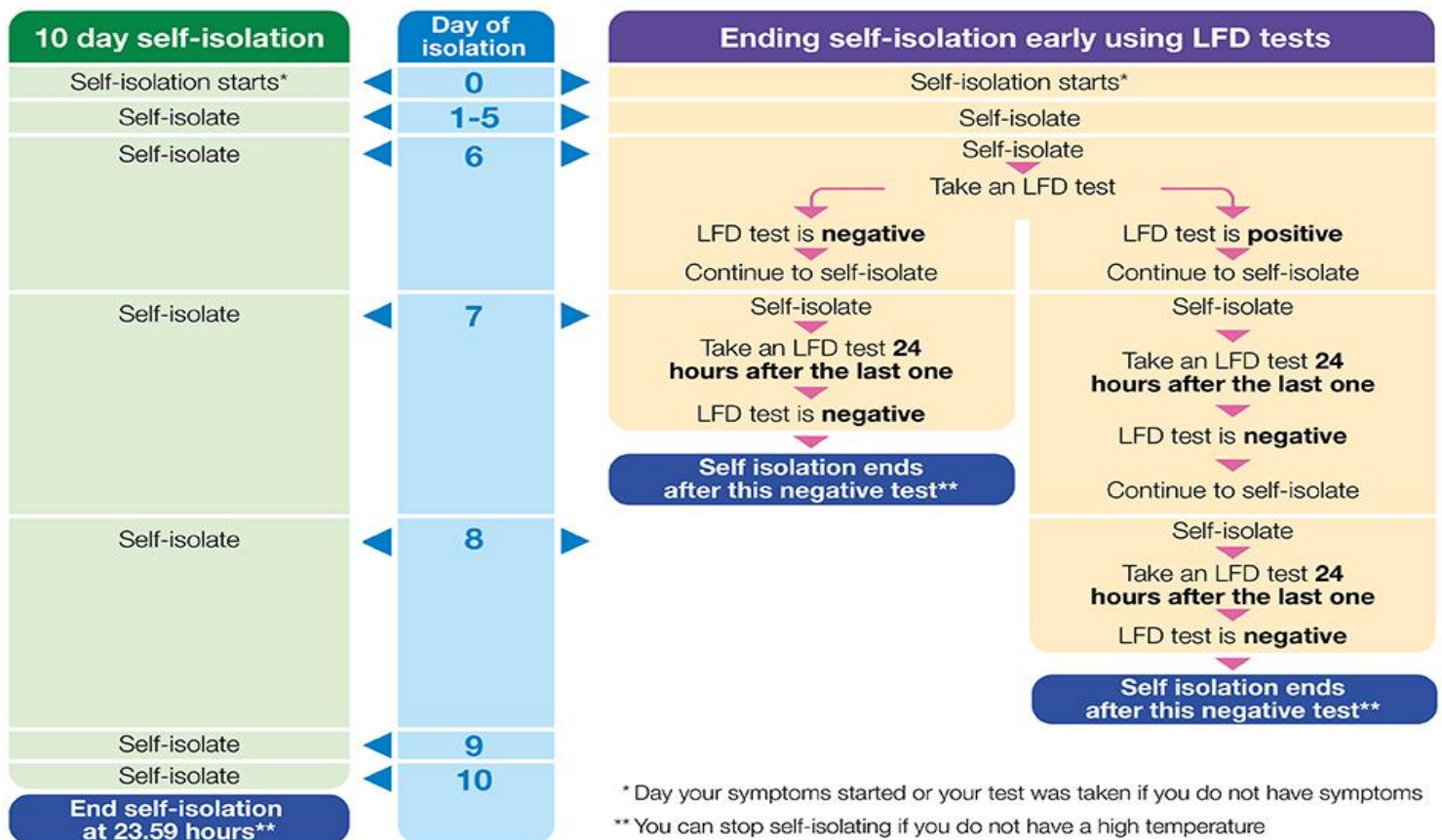
## Happy New Year and Covid Updates

Firstly, Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed the Christmas holiday and are safe and well.

As you are aware, the Department for Education are continuing to issue schools with further guidance regarding the Omicron variant and the response to the increase in cases both locally and nationally.

### Self-Isolation Timescales

There have been changes regarding the length of self-isolation and both students and staff can return to school following two consecutive lateral flow tests taken on day six and day seven. The day you have symptoms or test positive is classed as day '0' as per the flowchart below. You should self-isolate and commence testing on day six. If you test at 7.00am on day six and are negative and test negative again at 7.00am on day seven then students can return to school. If they continue to test positive they must continue to self-isolate. Once the 10-day self-isolation is over, students should return to school unless they continue to have a high temperature.



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### **Close Contacts and positive cases**

Students identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. As you know, we have a small stock of LFDs at the front of school and our test centre remains open daily.

### **Face coverings**

Thank you for your support in ensuring that students in Year 7 and above attend school with their own face covering or their lanyard if they are exempt. We have a small minority who are forgetting their masks or lanyards. I would ask for your help and support in ensuring your child(ren) have these items daily. This measure will be reviewed by the government on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **Lateral Flow Tests and PCRs**

From 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 there will be no requirement for a confirmatory PCR test to be undertaken if your child tests positive on a lateral flow test. Until this date, you should still follow the existing guidance. In order to keep our community and your families safe, please can I ask that you continue to test your secondary aged child(ren) twice per week.

### **Face Masks on Plaza and Visitors to School**

As per my letter prior to Christmas, the guidance has changed and we would ask parents/carers and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before attending the school for a meeting. Reception staff will ask for the result of the LFD test. Additionally, I would like to recommend that parents/carers wear a face mask when dropping off and collecting children. Thank you for your support in these matters.

### **Finally**

Obviously in light of previous disruption to education that students have experienced, it is vital that students attend school where they are not symptomatic or are required to isolate. We have no further information regarding SATs and examinations and we are preparing that they will go ahead as planned. Therefore, please ensure you are supporting your child(ren) as much as possible to prepare for these important examinations.

As always, it is important that we stick together as a community and do all we can to reduce any potential spread of the virus whilst supporting each other. We will be working with the relevant authorities to do all we can to follow the best advice and guidance.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ian Critchley

Principal

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