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Dear Parent, with the increase in cases of Covid-19 in school in recent days, I have outlined below clear guidance from Public Health on what to do if your child develops symptoms and secondly if your child has been a close contact:

Children of Primary School Age - Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)

If you have:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), or;
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), or;
- anosmia - the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your sense of taste)

You must self-isolate and take a PCR test.

If the test is positive you must self-isolate for 10 days.

Close Contacts and Self-Isolating

If your child has been a **close contact** -

They are advised to isolate and take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as possible.

If this is negative the child can stop isolating but should continue to take **daily** lateral flow tests until the **tenth day** after the last date of contact with the positive case.

The lateral flow should ideally be taken before the child leaves the house for the first time each day.

If any lateral flow test is positive the child should isolate immediately and book a PCR test.

If at any time- the child develops symptoms, they should isolate immediately and book a PCR even if the lateral flow test is negative.

If the PCR result is positive they should isolate for 10 days from the date the PCR test was taken or the date symptoms started, whichever is sooner.

The child may be able to end the self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days provided they have **two negative lateral flow tests (LFT)** taken 24 hours apart.

The child can take the first LFT from day six of your isolation period. The second should be taken the following day at least 24 hours later.

If both these test results are negative, and **the child does not have a high temperature**, they may end the self-isolation after the second negative test result.

The earliest the child can end isolation is on day seven (providing the LFTs on day six and seven are both negative).