



'Believe & Achieve'

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11th January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's lovely to see all the children back in school, thank you for continuing to do all you can to protect each other. We hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break.

Whilst some measures have relaxed we can all still work together to ensure our children get the education they deserve by limiting the spread of COVID-19 in schools. Like us, we are sure you are keen that your children remain in school this academic year.

The Department for Education (DfE) has just issued the following guidance to schools:

Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#).

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

The UK Health Security Agency clarifies the first point above:

"LFD tests are to be used by people without COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who has one of the core symptoms of COVID-19 – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – should self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

In line with the reduced self-isolation approach announced on 22 December, anyone who tests positive can leave self-isolation 7 days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive 2 negative LFD results, 24 hours apart, on days 6 and 7."

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From today, Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Information on the new arrangements can be found in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#)

Young people under 18 years and six months who have been identified as a close contact will continue to attend school (including if someone in their household has COVID-19) provided they are symptom free. However, they should still take a daily LFD test for 7 days and limit socialising until they know the results. This will help keep loved ones and the wider community safe.

In the event of a school outbreak extra action might be considered when cases reach a threshold, which could include face coverings in communal areas for staff and visitors; moving group activities outdoors or returning to remote learning for a period of time. This will be on the instruction of North Yorkshire's Director of Public Health and we will of course communicate any outbreak management plans to you as soon as possible. The schools will continue to work with the authorities to agree what action should be taken and we ask that you support us and the difficult decisions school leaders have to make.

We aim to keep you informed of any updates from the Government and Local Authority, as soon as we receive them. Please continue to inform the school administration team of any pupil illness, including COVID-19 related. It will help us if families continue to inform us if other family members have symptoms of or a positive test for COVID-19. All information is treated confidentially therefore we ask that you email admin@carltonfaceby.n-yorks.sch.uk or telephone and speak to Mrs Martin or Mrs Swales.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Grundmann

Mrs Grundmann
Acting Headteacher

Aiane Jeffries

Miss Jeffries
Acting Headteacher