



# St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

*'Working together to succeed, through faith in Jesus Christ'*

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to share with you the latest updates we have received with regards to COVID-19. There have been some changes to those who have or may be identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and changes to the guidance on self-isolation. Please read and follow the information below carefully.

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

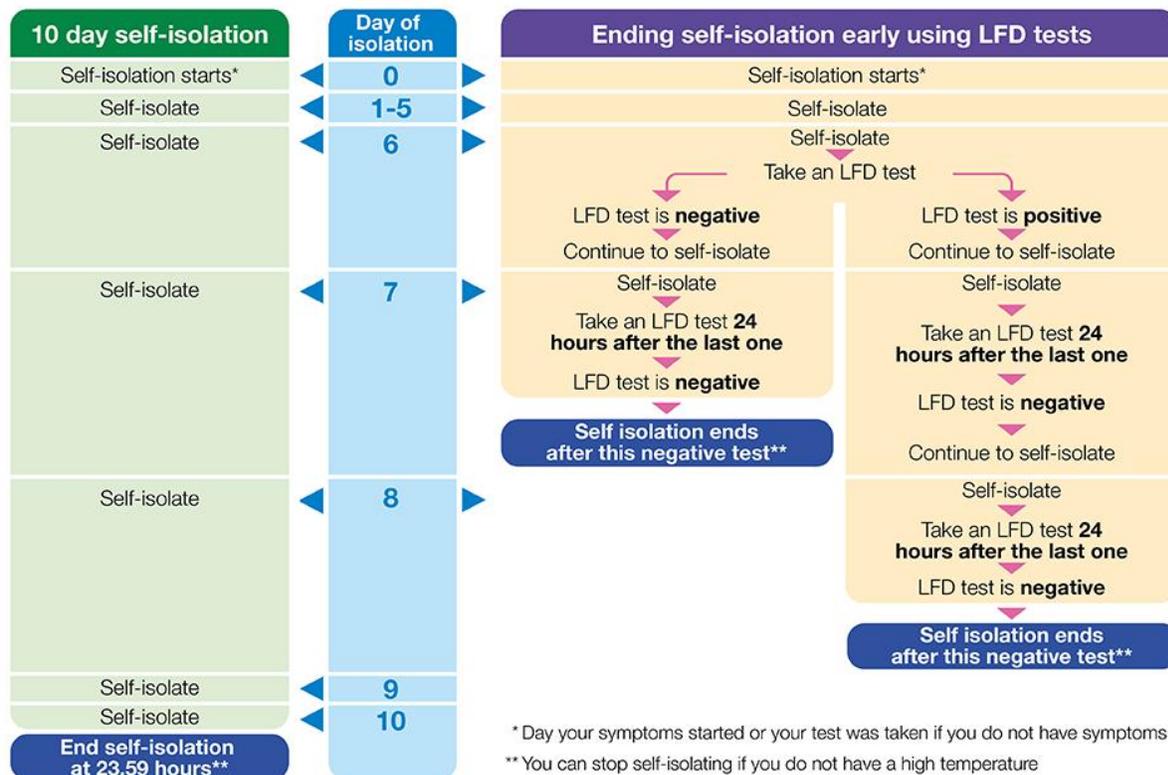
People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of or living with someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. I ask that photographic evidence is taken and sent to [contactststephens@gmail.com](mailto:contactststephens@gmail.com) for each of the seven days before 8.45am to enable your child to attend school as normal.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### **Self-isolation changes and guidance**

There has been changes made to the duration of self-isolation during the Christmas break for adults and children. Self-isolation after a positive PCR test remains at 10 days however if you take lateral flow tests on Day 6 and Day 7 that are **both** negative then you can end your self-isolation. Again, photographic evidence of this must be sent to [contactststephens@gmail.com](mailto:contactststephens@gmail.com) and confirmation given by myself or Mrs Georgiou before your child can return to school on Day 8. The table overleaf explains the process:





As always, we are looking at and following every possible procedure to keep all members of our school community safe. We will be remaining vigilant over the coming weeks and following guidance carefully and expect that you will do the same. You will have seen in the media how high levels of positive cases are and will likely disrupt all areas of life in the coming weeks. Our aim is to keep everyone safe, keep our face to face learning offer available without disruption to our pupils' learning and avoid closing classes due to increased positive case outbreaks and staff absence. I will keep you updated with any further guidance or information as soon as we receive it in school and this information will be updated in our contingency outbreak plan and risk assessment which can be found on the school website under the 'Key Info' tab under 'COVID-19 Updates'.

Thank you in advance for your support, understanding and co-operation with these matters.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr. Hatton**

