

31 August 21

Dear Parents/Guardian

We are writing in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation and to provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

Some likely scenarios are described below along with our advice:

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school. Please also let us know if your child is admitted to hospital with COVID-19

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer.

Plans for COVID-19 testing in Crosshill School

Parents are asked to test their child using the lateral flow test kits on the evening of Wednesday 1st September and again on the evening of Sunday 5th September on their return in the autumn term. If parents need support to carry this out, on site testing is available on Wednesday 1st September and Monday 6th for parents to bring their child. This is **by appointment only** by contacting Crosshill Office.

Why do we need to continue to test?

We will continue to send test kits home for you to test your child twice weekly on a Sunday and Thursday evening unless you notify us that you do not require them

By ensuring your child correctly carries out the lateral flow tests, it will be easier to spot asymptomatic spread amongst pupils. A positive Lateral Flow Test should always be followed up with a PCR test and the person testing should isolate until the results are back. Lateral flow device test kits will be sent home with your child via the bus escort unless you tell us you do not wish to receive these, using the form below or by contacting the office.

We will provide further details on whether testing will continue when we are made aware.

ACCESSING COVID-19 TESTING IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

Symptomatic testing and testing for close contacts

PCR tests can be booked at any of the DHSC run sites that operate Monday – Sunday 8am – 8pm on the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Walk in centres are available at Penny Street - car park (8.00am – 8.00pm) or Railway Road car park in Darwen (8.00am – 8.00pm). In addition there is a permanent testing site at Old Bank Lane, outside the Royal Blackburn Hospital

PCR tests for home delivery can also be ordered by calling 119.

If you have any other questions regarding covid 19 and the arrangements in place, details can be found on our website, Covid Response [Crosshill - COVID-19 Response \(crosshillblackburn.co.uk\)](https://crosshillblackburn.co.uk) or please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Lidia Gardner
Headteacher**

OPT OUT FORM - LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING KIT

Parents should then continue to test their child twice weekly at home Sunday and Thursday evening until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

By ensuring your child correctly carries out the lateral flow tests, it will be easier to spot asymptomatic spread amongst pupils. A positive Lateral Flow Test should always be followed up with a PCR test and the person testing should isolate until the results are back.

Lateral flow device test kits will be sent home with your child via the bus escort unless you tell us you do not wish to receive these. Should you wish to opt out of this return the form below or contact Crosshill Office.

Opt Out

Name of child:

I do not wish to receive the free lateral flow device home testing kits.

Your signature..... Date