

People Directorate

Depute Chief Executive and Director - People: Douglas Hutchison

County Buildings
Wellington Square
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Our Ref: DH/LD Your Ref:

Date: 16 August 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming our young people back after the summer break and want to take this opportunity to remind you to start twice weekly asymptomatic testing for secondary pupils, and also to update you on changes when managing COVID-19 in our schools.

COVID-19 testing programme - LFD test before returning to school:

We are advising that all staff that work in education settings and secondary school pupils restart twice-weekly at home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing before returning to school. In addition, we are advising that they continue to take two tests a week thereafter. Ideally, **pupils should test before they leave for their first day of school or the evening before.**

Regular asymptomatic testing can help keep the school community safe. If your child is at secondary school, they can access free LFD tests from the school, to allow them to test twice-weekly at home as long as they have no symptoms. Please contact the school directly to ask about this if your child is having problems accessing tests. Please encourage your child to test twice-weekly, and to record all positive, negative or void results on the online reporting portal at: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Changes to the management of COVID-19 in school:

Whole classes will no longer be asked to self-isolate. Your child will only be identified as a contact if they have had prolonged close contact with a positive case, for example they are in the same household or following an overnight stay. This will only apply if you are contacted by Test and Protect.

- Children **under the age of 5** who are identified as a close contact can be PCR tested but can continue to attend their early years centre/school if they have no symptoms of COVID-19. We do however strongly advise that they are tested as a close contact.
- Children and young people **aged 5 – 17** who are identified as a close contact **must** be PCR tested and can return to school or early years centre if the PCR result is negative and they have no symptoms. If not tested, your child cannot return to school until the 10 days of isolation are complete. If their PCR result is positive, they must isolate for 10 days.
- Adults **aged 18 and over** who are identified as close contacts **must** also be PCR tested. If they have had both vaccinations within the previous 14 days and their PCR result is negative, they can return to school or work if they have no symptoms. If their PCR result is negative and they have not had both vaccinations within the previous 14 days, then they must isolate for 10 days.
- If someone in the **household** is positive for COVID-19, children under the age of 5 can continue to attend school or nursery if they have no symptoms. Children and young people aged 5 – 17 **must** get a PCR test, and can return if the result is negative and they have no symptoms. Adults

aged 18 and over must get a PCR test. Again, if they have had both vaccinations within the previous 14 days they can return if their PCR result is negative and they remain symptom free. If they have not had both vaccinations, they must get a PCR and isolate for 10 days.

- If your child is identified as a close contact, please forward the text or email with the information containing the negative result to the school office prior to your child returning to school.
- If your child is identified as a close contact and they become positive with COVID-19, Test and Protect will contact you.
- Children and young people aged 12 and over must wear a face covering on school transport. Children under the age of 12 may continue to do so although this is not mandatory.

Symptoms of COVID-19

Anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 must still isolate and book a PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. Please do not use LFD tests if symptomatic.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new cough;
- high temperature (37.8 or above);
- and/or loss of taste and smell.

There may be other milder symptoms which can include sore throat, runny nose, headaches, vomiting and diarrhoea.

If anyone in the household has any of the 3 main symptoms, the household must isolate until the result is known. If the person does not have any of the 3 main symptoms, the household are not required to isolate pending the result. The latest guidance, can be found on [NHS Inform](https://www.nhs.uk/inform). In the event of a positive result, Test and Protect will contact you to provide tailored advice on what to do.

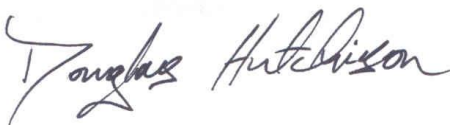
Further Information

Frequently Asked Questions and information is available here:

[Schools and early years centres - South Ayrshire Council \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to read this update. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Public Health department on 01292 885858 if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Douglas Hutchison
Depute Chief Executive and Director - People