



Derby City Council

Team Public Health  
Contact Robyn Dewis  
Our ref RD/NO

Date 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all that you are continuing to do to help us keep children in school. The months ahead are very uncertain with the discovery of the new COVID variant Omicron. In Derby I gave extra advice on 15<sup>th</sup> October to try to cut down COVID spread in schools. This advice is because of the high rates of COVID cases in the City and the outbreaks in schools.

I advised that children who lived with someone who was positive for COVID should stay at home and take a PCR test. PCR tests are the best test for COVID and the only way that we can identify variants like Omicron. This is extra advice on top of national guidance which I am able to provide due to my role as Director of Public Health, but this remains advice.

Around 2 out of 5 children who live with someone infected will become positive for COVID; and around 1 in 3 of these children will not have symptoms. These children are at risk of infecting their friends at school whilst waiting for their PCR result. We have seen some of these cases spreading infection to other year groups or schools recently.

If we have a case of Omicron in school the current national guidance is that all contacts, including school contacts, will need to isolate as before. It is really important that we do everything we can to prevent this happening and keep children in school, especially in these last few weeks before Christmas.

National guidance may change over the next days or weeks, in the mean time I advise:

- If your child has symptoms of COVID please isolate them at home and arrange a PCR test in line with national guidance. A lateral flow test is not sufficient in this case.
- **If you have a positive COVID case in the household please arrange for all other household members to have a PCR test and keep your child at home until a result is received. Please do not take them to other clubs or social events during this time.**
- If the PCR is positive please follow national advice and isolate- this is required by law.
- If the PCR is negative your child can return to school, but if they are able please consider daily lateral flow testing for seven more days.

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**People Services, The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, DE1 2FS**  
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- Please continue using lateral flow tests regularly as a family, including parents and Secondary School aged children. Lateral flow tests can also be used by younger children if you feel happy and able to do this.
- Any positive lateral flow test must be confirmed with a PCR test in line with national guidance. Variants such as Omicron can only be detected through a PCR test.

If your child has special educational needs and testing is not possible please discuss this with your school. Current advice is that any child who has received a positive PCR test does not need to test again, unless they develop new symptoms, for 90 days as they should have a good level of protection against the virus.

Everyone over the age of 12 years is able to receive COVID vaccination. If you or members of your family have not yet had this please go to [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or call 119 for more information.

We are continuing to watch and respond to the situation in the City and are grateful for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Robyn Dewis', written in black ink.

Dr Robyn Dewis  
Director of Public Health