



BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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14 December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I have received the following updated information from the Department for Education.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting. https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result?utm_source=13%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release.

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week?utm_source=13%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19 This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus->





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[test?utm_source=13%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.blackminster.worcs.sch.uk/test?utm_source=13%20December%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

All staff and students at BMS have been issued with boxes of 7 LFT kits.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

If your child has SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, please contact us so that we can discuss a suitable way forward.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.

Update on COVID-19 vaccinations

The new Omicron COVID-19 variant is spreading fast. Anyone who is unvaccinated or who hasn't had their booster is at even greater risk from COVID-19 and more serious illness. Vaccines are the best way we can protect ourselves and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education.

People aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine, and we'd encourage anyone who is offered on to take this up.

You can pre-book your booster dose online if it's been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose and you are:

- aged 30 and over
- aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19





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- a frontline health or social care worker

You will be offered appointment dates from 3 months after the date of your 2nd dose.

The Health and Social Care Secretary announced on Monday 29 November that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from JCVI. Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the national booking system. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Schools have been asked, where possible, to direct parents to the out-of-school route as they break up for the winter holidays. In some cases, parents will be able to get their booster at the same time as their child getting their first vaccine.

Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination and booking a vaccination can be found on NHS.UK.

An information leaflet on what to expect after vaccination is available to download or order: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-what-to-expect-after-vaccination>

Kind regards,

Linda McQuone
Executive Headteacher

