



Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have had a lovely half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back tomorrow.

I am sure that you will all have seen the changes to the COVID-19 guidance issued last week. It is really good news that we are moving more towards less COVID-19 restrictions however, as a community we need to be mindful of how we do this and continue to protect those around us. I wanted to therefore, update you in how this affects Whinfield prior to the children returning to school tomorrow.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 remain the same and are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of these symptoms you [should order a PCR test](#). You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

You will be aware that the changes to self-isolation remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive result but to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 days. However, as with all previous guidance, children who are unwell should not come to school.

The guidance states:

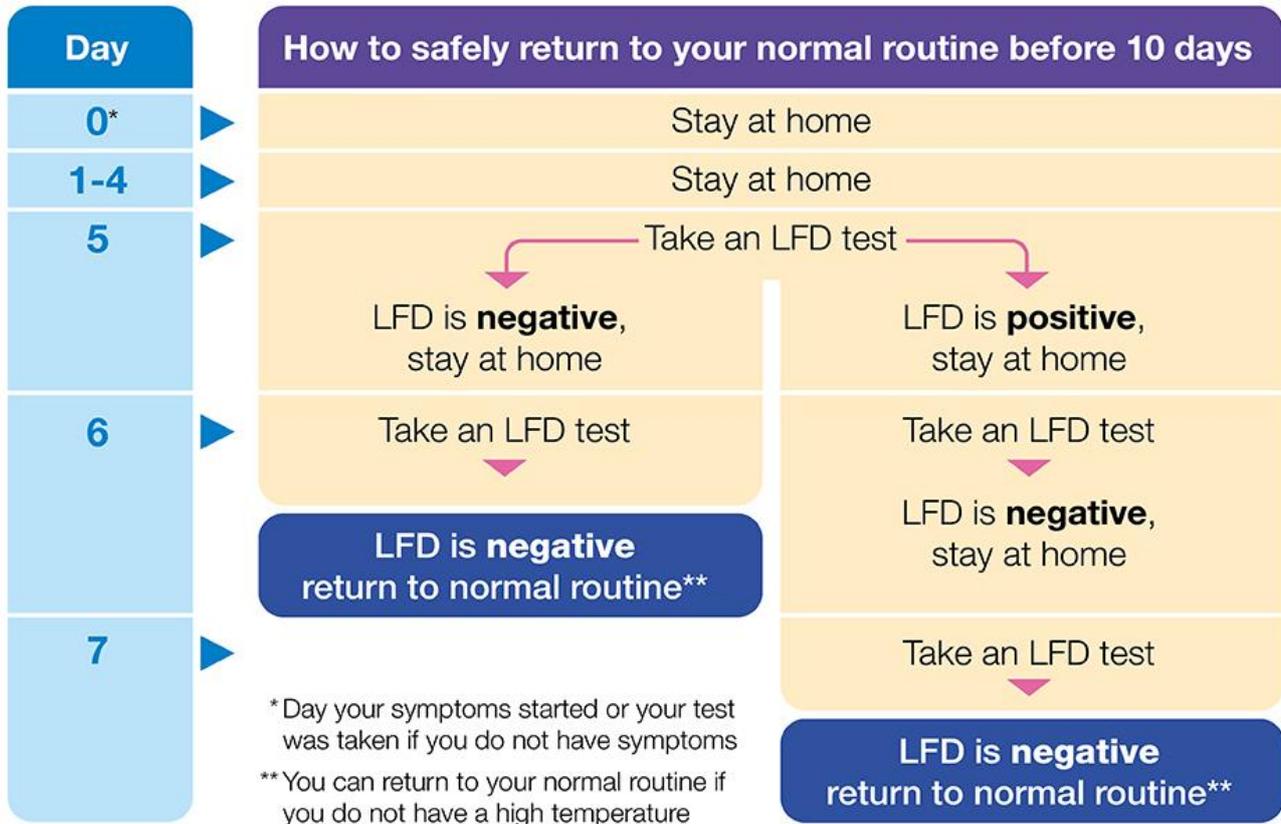
'Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.'

- If a child has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 school will take the decision to send the child home OR advise parents/carers to keep the child at home. This is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This will also help to keep the provision of high quality education in place as you have all been aware of the affect COVID-19 has had on staff absence in previous weeks.
- Contacts are no longer going to be traced officially therefore, it is extremely important that you inform the school at the earliest opportunity if your child has tested positive OR if they are a close contact, so we can take appropriate action.
- If you need to visit the school office or speak to a member of staff we would advise that you continue to wear a face-covering as another way to protect us all.

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If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs S Welsh
 Headteacher