



Thursday 17 June 2021

Dear parent/carer

Positive COVID-19 case impacting on a group of students in Year 10.

As you are aware we sent your child home from school today due to a positive COVID-19 case being reported following a positive lateral flow test today.

Your child has been identified as a 'close contact' and there is a *risk* your child has come into contact with a COVID-19 positive case in the last *few* days. **It does not mean they have COVID-19.**

Your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days. This means they must not go out or meet up with any friends inside or outside your home. **The end of the self-isolation period is the end of Saturday 26 June and your child will return to school on Monday 28th June.**

Your child was sent home following advice from Wigan Health Protection and in line with advice from Public Health England. We isolated them in school until we were able to confirm with you their safe travel home. I appreciate this was done at short notice and appreciate the support you have given in helping us do this safely.

We have given your child a COVID-19 test kit, please use the test kit today to complete a lateral flow test. Please report the result to school using testresult@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk even if it is a negative result.

The latest guidance issued from all Directors of Public Health in Greater Manchester is that close contacts should **book a PCR test** to support early identification of the variants of concern and to identify any further transmission between cases. Household members of those isolating can also book a PCR test.

This approach is intended to identify cases, including when people have no symptoms. This will help to identify and isolate cases, prevent onward transmission and minimise case rates in our local community. This will be kept under review and I will advise you as and when this is no longer required.

To book a PCR test go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

You will be asked to identify whether you or your child has COVID symptoms. If there are no symptoms, select 'No' for this answer and proceed through the questions until the question: *Why are you asking for a test?*

You should select the box that says *'I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional'*.

Then choose the option that states: *'My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms'*.

You will then be able to book a test.

Please let the school know the outcome of the PCR test (negative or positive) using testresult@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk.

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

To be clear on what you need to do as parents\carers:

- Your child must immediately self-isolate and not mix with other people outside your household.
- Book your child a PCR test.
- If anyone in your house develops symptoms you should ring 119 to arrange a test immediately.
- As parents/carers, you do not need to self-isolate unless you or your child develops symptoms.
- In the light of new variants of concern you can also book a PCR test.

What work will my child complete?

Work is available on SatchelOne. Your child should follow their normal school timetable to complete their work and submit any work via SatchelOne.

Once again, I am grateful for your support in helping us manage the situation at school and collectively play our part in driving down transmission of coronavirus. I am sorry for the disruption caused.

If you are unclear about any aspect of this letter, please get in touch.

Yours faithfully

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher