

The following guidance for schools has been provided by the COVID-19 Health Protection Practitioner for Public Health England SW regarding any positive COVID-19 cases at school.

Their advice from now on was very clear and is as follows:

- **Pupils and staff must remain in school if they are asymptomatic, even if they are close contacts.**
- Close contacts are advised to take daily lateral flow tests until the positive case's 10-day isolation finishes. Staff will notify pupils (and their parents) if they are identified as close contacts and arrange the daily lateral flow tests if necessary.
- PCR tests are now advisory rather than mandatory. Pupils and staff can book PCR tests online, and staff will help with this process. Pupils and staff do not need to miss school to take a PCR test at a drop-in testing centre.
- Anyone testing positive with a lateral flow test or showing COVID-19 symptoms should take a PCR test as soon as possible and remain away from school until they receive the results. Pupils and staff should return to school immediately if they receive a negative PCR result, but must isolate for 10 days if they receive a positive PCR result.

Pupils can only miss school if they:

1. are symptomatic,
2. have received a positive lateral flow test,
3. are waiting on a confirmatory PCR test
4. are self-isolating after a positive PCR test.

Therefore:

- **Remote teaching will only be provided for pupils self-isolating.**
- **All other pupil absences must go through the normal process and can only be authorised by the Head.**

The COVID-19 Health Protection Practitioner appreciated that this is a different approach, but the Government's priority is to keep pupils in education if possible.