

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today your child(ren) have come home with more LFD home test kits.

Therefore, please ensure your child(ren) complete a test every Wednesday and Sunday and then if you could complete **our school google form ([NEW School Google Form](#)) AND the NHS Track and Trace form ([NHS Test and Trace](#)) (no matter the outcome)** to show that our school community is testing its students.

This is important as it will show the Government (as you have to input your child's school) that we are completing our home tests. So far this term, we have had 28 positive LFD tests with 18 confirmed by PCR; the rest we are either awaiting results of PCR tests or they have come back negative. This shows that LFD testing is helping to protect our students, staff and community - thank you.

The dates we would like these tests to be carried out are the following:-

- Wednesday 15th September - last one from the old pack (Year 8-11), Year 7 you will have more.
- Sunday 19th September
- Wednesday 22nd September
- Sunday 26th September
- Wednesday 29th September
- Sunday 3rd October
- Wednesday 6th October
- Sunday 10th October

As stated before, the country has moved to Step 4 of the Government's roadmap for ending coronavirus restrictions, meaning that, from the 16th August, students are no longer required to self-isolate, even if they are in close contact with someone who tests positive. This means that schools are no longer responsible for tracing 'close contacts' which was the process which led to students having to self-isolate and the closure of school bubbles/Year Groups. If a student is identified as a close contact of a positive case, they will be advised to take a PCR test. Below is the exact wording from the guidelines concerning close contacts:

'Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.'

As with positive cases in any other settings, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As a school, we may contact you in

exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reason

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

We would also like to remind parents/carers that no student should attend school if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus – they should book an immediate PCR test and follow the appropriate guidelines. To get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus click on the link [here](#).

Our intention, from this week, will be that we will inform you weekly of any cases we have in school; as you know we will be unable to share names of students but we shall provide details of the year group.

The past eighteen months have been incredibly challenging for everyone in so many ways. At Wildern, our community has coped brilliantly with the challenges posed by the pandemic. Although restrictions have been eased, we are still retaining certain elements of our COVID protocols as these have worked so successfully and have meant that our whole school community continues to be a safe and happy place to learn.

The following systems will continue to be in place over the coming school year:

- Ventilation of classrooms and corridors
- Thorough school cleaning of all communal areas during the school day
- Hand sanitising at the start and ends of lessons
- One way systems within corridors
- Limited visitors to the school
- Parents evenings to be conducted virtually

We are working as hard and safely as possible to get to as near normal as possible and will continually monitor all the information available on a daily basis. We shall continue to communicate immediately with any updates as and when they arrive.

This term has started extremely well and we are looking forward to the coming weeks working alongside your child(ren). It has been joyful to have everyone back together.

Best wishes,