

Dear parents and carers,

As promised, I am writing to give you an update on our staffing situation. We still have 15% of our teachers absent. Based on isolation dates we are hoping that lots of these teachers will be back at the academy towards the end of next week but as you appreciate the situation is rapidly changing. This morning, I have tested positive for COVID. I think I've done pretty well to avoid it so far. For the next week, I may not be able to reply quickly to any parents, so could you please contact your child's tutor or Head of Year if you would like to discuss anything urgently. If the issue needs passing on to a more senior member of staff then they will be able to do that for you.

Due to these staffing levels we will be unable to operate as normal next week. On Monday and Tuesday we are going to have to ask Year 8 to work from home and then on Wednesday and Thursday Year 10 will need to work from home. Work will be put on Frog and students should follow their usual timetable. We will be unable to run live lessons as teachers will be covering lessons for their absent colleagues.

If your child is working from home and has any technical issues then please get them to email helpdesk@macademy.org.uk.

Whilst, we continue to have staff shortages in catering, we will be able to ensure that all students can have lunch so there is no need to provide a packed lunch for your child next week (unless you want to obviously).

I know that with all of the changes in guidance it is hard to keep up with what the rules are. I hope that the below helps to clarify things.

Lateral flows and PCRs

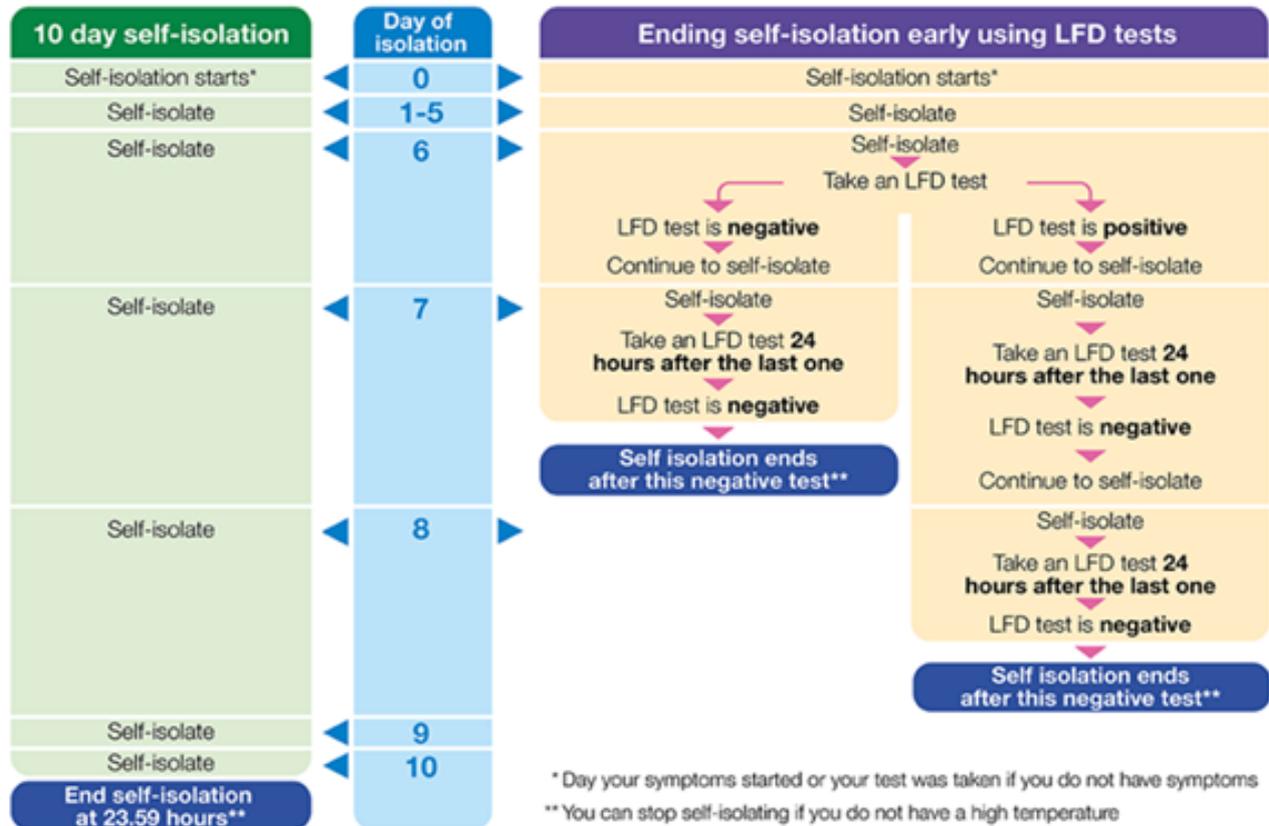
If you have any symptoms of COVID then you need to get a PCR test and isolate whilst you are waiting for results.

From Tuesday 11 January, if you test positive on a lateral flow (and do not have any symptoms) you need to follow the guidance below regarding isolation. There is no longer a need to go for a confirmatory PCR. You need to log your results on gov.uk.

Isolation times if positive

This used to be 10 days but has been reduced to 7 days (provided you have 2 negative lateral flows taken 24 hours apart). So, if you have tested positive and feel well enough in yourself on day 6 of your isolation do a test first thing in the morning. If this is negative then do another test first thing on day 7. If this is also negative then you can immediately end your isolation and come back to the academy on that day. If you test positive then continue the tests daily up until day 10 as you may get 2 negatives on day 8 and 9 for example and could then end isolation on day 9. If you continue to test positive on day 10 you still end isolation at 11.59pm on day 10. The flowchart below may help:

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



I will write again in the middle of next week to give you an update.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Coning
Headteacher