



# The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: LCD

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Dear Parents / Carers

## **Temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings**

Please find below an update to the government's response to COVID-19.

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or in college) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. They therefore do not need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

Education and childcare settings are not expected to trace contacts of a positive case as this will remain the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. From today, Tuesday 11 January, contact tracing is triggered once a positive LFD test is reported.

Students are strongly encouraged to test twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to us via [TestRegister](#). Anyone with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate and follow self-isolation guidance. Information on the new arrangements can be found in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### **Reporting test results for schools and colleges**

Reporting test results every time students and staff take an LFD test means the NHS always gets the latest, most accurate information. This helps them to keep track of where the virus is spreading, provide support where it is needed and protect local communities across the country.

Please remind your child the importance of reporting all tests results (positive, negative and void) to NHS Test and Trace and to the college.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Davis  
Office Manager

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