



Caldy Road
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 2HE

Telephone: 0151 625 6993

Fax: 0151 625 0332

E-mail: Schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Callaway BA Hons QTS
jcallaway@avalon-school.co.uk

14th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Shortening of self-isolation period:

It has been announced today that from Monday 14th December, the self-isolation period for contacts of individuals with confirmed COVID19 will be reduced from 14 days to 10 days.

The reduction in the self-isolation period follows a review of the evidence by the Chief Medical Officer, which has concluded that as individuals are less likely to become infected at the tail-end of the 14-day period, allowing someone out of self-isolation a short time earlier is a reasonable balance between managing the risk to the public and lessening the 'intrusion' into people lives.

This does NOT affect the period for isolation for confirmed cases. This remains at 10 days from onset of symptoms or 10 days from the point of taking a test.

Incorrect use of Asymptomatic Testing:

A recent review has also shown that some parents have been incorrectly taking their children for an asymptomatic test if they have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case and have been self-isolated from their school or setting. In doing so, they are wrongly assuming that if that child tests negative, they can return immediately to school/setting. This is NOT the case.

If a child or member of staff has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case and has been told to self-isolate, they MUST isolate for the full 10 days (following today's announcement about the shortening of the isolation period from 14 to 10 days). Taking an asymptomatic test is in this circumstance, completely irrelevant, as a negative test will only be valid for that point in time. The virus can still develop after that point (up to the end of the isolation period). We would also like to point out that if a child or member of staff, having been told that they must self-isolate after having been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, MUST NOT breach the self-isolation guidance by going out of the house to get a test.

Clarification of 'Day 0'/'Day 1'

There have been slight discrepancies regarding the definition of 'Day 0' and 'Day 1' for cases and close contacts. This is due to a lack of agreement between various national bodies. Based on current guidance the following examples apply:

Scenario for cases:

A child/staff member has COVID symptoms starting the morning of 13th October. This is Day 0. They subsequently test positive (ie they are a confirmed case) and need to isolate for a full 10 days from symptom onset. So, **Day 1 is the first full day of isolation after symptoms started**



Caldy Road
West Kirby
Wirral
CH48 2HE

Telephone: 0151 625 6993

Fax: 0151 625 0332

E-mail: Schooloffice@avalon-school.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Callaway BA Hons QTS
jcallaway@avalon-school.co.uk

(14th October), with Day 10 being the 23rd October. They can return to school/setting on the 24th October, assuming they are recovered.

Scenario for close contacts:

Child B has been identified as a close contact of confirmed case Child A and the last contact between the two was on the 5th November when Child A developed COVID symptoms (this is 'Day 0'). Child B needs to isolate for 10 days (following today's announcement about the shortening of the isolation period) after the last contact with Child A. So, **Day 1 of isolation would be the 6th November, with Day 10 being the 15th November.** Child B can return to school/setting on the 16th November.

Many thanks for your continued support and collaboration in tackling COVID-19 and helping to keep everyone as safe as possible in our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Joanna Callaway

Mrs J Callaway
Headteacher