**Cumbria County Council Public Health Update to Schools**

**11 February 2021**

1. **Primary Schools & Nurseries - Please note changes to LFT guidance on testing within 90 days of a positive PCR result**

As you know, for some time after the national guidance on rapid testing in Primary Schools & Nurseries was published, the Public Health Team at Cumbria County Council continued to advise against LFT testing within 90 days of a positive PCR test result (despite the guidance encouraging this). After seeking further reassurance from NHS Test and Trace, we finally sent out comms last week confirming that we would also advise LFT within this timeframe was acceptable.

However, the national guidance for Primary & Nursery Schools has been updated. The guidance in the [Clinical Standard Operating Procedures](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X4fLxy6_ppmpmKrv3hT2M6cduAN_GS54) document and [FAQ document](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15YpkcXdVQhF1cKAblgboUligkSaZbKCf) now states:

**If staff have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, they are likely to have developed some immunity. Individuals are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test, unless they develop new symptoms.**

**However, individuals may choose to take an LFD test after the isolation period, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme. This should only be done after completion of the required self-isolation period as per the NHS stay at home guidance. If they test positive with a LFD test, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days or longer if symptomatic.**

**They are still required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive case, even if this is within the 90-day window.**

I am sorry that we are updating our advice to you again. Whilst this further change to the guidance is frustrating, ultimately, I think it is the right decision to clearly state that individuals are exempt from testing within 90 days of a positive PCR. I am also pleased that there is now consistency in the advice being given across different workforces.

We are updating resources such as the flow charts and will reissue them as soon as possible.

1. **Guidance on COVID-19 and pregnancy has been updated**

Following a query at the Education Planning Group meeting yesterday, I wanted to provide the links to the most recent guidance in relation to COVID-19 and pregnant staff.

[Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools. Guidance for all schools in England.](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/958906/Restricting_attendance_during_the_national_lockdown_schools_guidance.pdf) February 2021 – contains a section on staff who are pregnant.

This links to the generic government guidance: [Guidance Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for pregnant employees](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees) (Updated 11 January 2021).

Any queries, please contact the Cumbria County Council Public Health Team by emailing [EducationIPC@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:EducationIPC@cumbria.gov.uk)

Claire King, Consultant in Public Health, Cumbria County Council