

7 October 2021

Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to confirm the current Covid-19 situation at The Castle School. Somerset County Council Public Health (SCCPH) Team has reviewed the number of positive PCR cases within the school, in line with the measures implemented in the school. The numbers are stable and we are remaining in the amber category. SCCPH will review the situation again at the beginning of next week.

SCCPH has recommended that all staff and students complete a **one-off PCR test**, ideally at a testing station, or a home test. If your child has tested positive on PCR within the last 90 days, they do not need to complete a test.

There is no requirement to continue to complete the daily lateral flow tests at home, until further notification.

If possible, please request the test on Friday evening (8 October) or Saturday morning (9 October) so that results are received prior to Monday 11 October. This will help in identifying and isolating all current unidentified cases and reduce the transmission risk in the school. Your child may return to school on Monday without a confirmed PCR result, as long as they are not displaying Covid-19 symptoms.

[Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Please state that you have been told to get a test by your local council, health protection team or healthcare professional, even though you do not have symptoms.

Please log your result with the School via <https://forms.office.com/r/pKwqj3KSGV>

If your child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms or cold or flu-type symptoms, they should not attend school and request a PCR test. They may return to school if the PCR result is negative and they are well enough to be at school.

Work will be available on Microsoft Teams for all students who are absent from school and isolating due to COVID, but who are well enough to work.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

However mild the symptoms, please book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken an LFD test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/119) or by calling 119.

If the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol).

If the test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test). Members of your household who have been fully vaccinated (at least 14 days earlier), are medically exempt from vaccination, or under the age of 18 years 6 months, instead of self-isolating are now advised to take a free PCR test. They should continue to take precautions to protect others until the result is received. If the result is negative, they can resume normal activities. If the result is positive they must isolate for 10 days. This starts either from the test date, or onset of symptoms, whichever came first.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

