



Gyda'n gilydd gallwn ni i gyd helpu i gadw Sir y Fflint yn ddiogel

Together we can all help to keep Flintshire safe

Coronavirus – COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Issue 23

Date: 7 December 2021

Q1. I understand the rules for self-isolation are different if I am a close contact of someone who has or is suspected of having the new COVID-19 variant Omicron. Is this correct?

If you are a close contact of someone who is confirmed or suspected to have the Omicron variant, you must self-isolate from the day you were last in contact with the person who tested positive and for the next 10 days, regardless of your vaccination status or age.

You should also take a PCR test on day 2 and day 8. It is important that you take the tests even if you feel well as you may have COVID-19 even if you do not have symptoms.

Even if these tests are negative, you must complete the isolation period. This is because if you have been infected, it can take time for symptoms to develop or to become infectious to others.

The Test, Trace, Protect service will let you know if your contact is a confirmed or suspected case of the Omicron variant and advise on what to do next. This may mean you can leave self-isolation but it will depend on your age, vaccination status and nature of the contact.

Q2. If I am required to isolate as a result of being a contact of someone who has or is suspected of having the new COVID-19 variant Omicron and I am unable to go to work, how will the period of isolation be managed?

- It will depend on whether you are able to work from home.
- You will need to speak to your manager / Head Teacher to establish whether your work can be undertaken from home.
- If your role allows you to, and you are fit to work, then you will be expected to work from home and practical arrangements will be made via your manager/ Head Teacher.
- If your role does not allow you to work from home, you will be on 'approved paid absence'

- If you are not well enough to work, whether you have been fully vaccinated or not, your absence will be treated as sickness absence and managed in accordance with the Attendance Management Policy.

Q3. If I have to stay at home to look after my child because they are displaying COVID symptoms, and are waiting for the results of a PCR test or because they have tested positive for COVID, will I still get paid?

- You need to speak to your manager / Head Teacher to establish whether you can work from home in your role.
- If your role allows you to, and you are fit to work, then you will be expected to work from home and practical arrangements will be made via your manager/ Head Teacher.
- Wherever possible, employees should look at sharing the caring responsibility with their partner (where applicable) to minimise any impact.
- If your role does not allow you to work from home, and all other options have been exhausted, then you will be on 'approved paid absence'

Q4. I understand that there are changes to the rules for international arrivals into the UK, what are the changes and when do they come into effect?

From 4am, Tuesday 7 December all people aged 12 years and over must take a PCR or LFD COVID-19 test before they travel to the UK from abroad. The test must be taken in the 2 days before your return journey to the UK. This will apply whether you qualify as fully vaccinated or not.

At the time of writing, the requirement to self-isolate on your return to the UK from abroad remains as detailed in Frequent Asked Questions, Issue 22.

<http://infonet.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Employment-Information/Coronavirus-Covid-19-Workforce-Update.aspx>

Q5. Will I get paid if I am invited to attend for my COVID booster vaccination during normal working hours?

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), in response to the emergence of the Omicron variant, have expanded booster vaccination eligibility to include all adults over aged 18 and reduced the time between vaccination from 6 to 3 months to optimise individual protection ahead of a potential wave of infection and reduce the impact of the Omicron variant

on the UK. Accordingly, for employee's who are invited to attend for a vaccination during their normal working hours, a maximum of an hour will be approved.

The information in these FAQs is based on advice/guidance from Public Health England/Wales and or UK and Welsh Government available at the date of publication. The Council will continue to review and issue updated FAQs periodically to reflect any changes that emerge from Public Health England/Wales and or UK and Welsh Government.