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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re Up-dated guidance this afternoon

Firstly, you may have seen the Media Release from the CCA this afternoon which sets out some proposed next steps to be agreed next week should the improving picture continue in relation to management of the current Omicron wave. **(Attached for your ease)**

In light of this, Education, Sport and Culture are considering the timing of any deescalation plans for schools and settings and the proposed next steps. They anticipate being able to share an education Media Release with me later this week.

In addition, Public Health have updated their advice on LFTs following a positive diagnosis of covid and the website has been updated with the FAQs below. *This is a change to previous advice* so we would be grateful if you could read this information below.

Guidance for positive cases can be found at: <u>https://covid19.gov.gg/positive_case</u>

This includes some of the most frequently asked questions:

• When should I start taking LFTs again?

As a recovered case you should take up your usual surveillance testing from Day 17 (7 days after your recovery date). If you have a positive LFT more than 7 days after your recovery date, please call the clinical helpline on 220001 or 220002 or complete the online form at <u>https://www.gov.gg/covidnotification</u>. We would also discourage you from doing LFTs between Day 10 and Day 17 as you may still test positive but are highly unlikely to be infectious after 10 days in self-isolation.

• If there are other cases in my household yet to recover, can I leave isolation? If you are a recovered case and there are other members in your household still in isolation as positive cases, you may leave isolation. Please be aware of possible environmental transmission, for instance on clothing. To minimise risk to people outside your household you should aim to practice good hand hygiene and change your outer clothes before leaving the house. Try not wear clothes out that have been in contact with the positive case(s). If you are parents caring for children who are negative and therefore still going to school please ensure you minimise physical contact with them where possible, wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene – particularly when preparing items for school, packed lunches etc.

• What if I am still positive on Day 8?

If you are still positive on Day 8, you do not need to take an LFT on Days 9, 10 or 11 in order to leave isolation on your Recovery Date Day 11 (00:01am). If you have symptoms other than a residual cough and/or loss of taste and smell please at stay home for another 48 hours and then if you are still not well please speak to your GP.

• As a reminder if you are symptom-free; AND you have had a negative lateral flow test on Day 6 and Day 7 (or Days 7 and 8, or Days 8 and 9, two consecutive days 24 hours apart) you can release yourself into enhanced passive follow-up until Day 11 (00:01am) when restrictions are lifted.

Attending education settings while in enhanced passive follow-up

- Students who have been diagnosed as a positive case are able to return to school on day 7 following a negative LFT on day 6 and day 7 and as long as they are symptom-free; however they are only permitted to attend core educational provision until they are out of enhanced passive follow-up. This means that they should not attend any club, group or activity during this period of enhanced passive follow-up.
- 2. Staff are also able to attend if they are in enhanced passive followup provided a risk assessment has been undertaken and appropriate mitigations are in place, including the wearing of a face covering and ensuring teaching spaces are well ventilated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M A Winward Headteacher