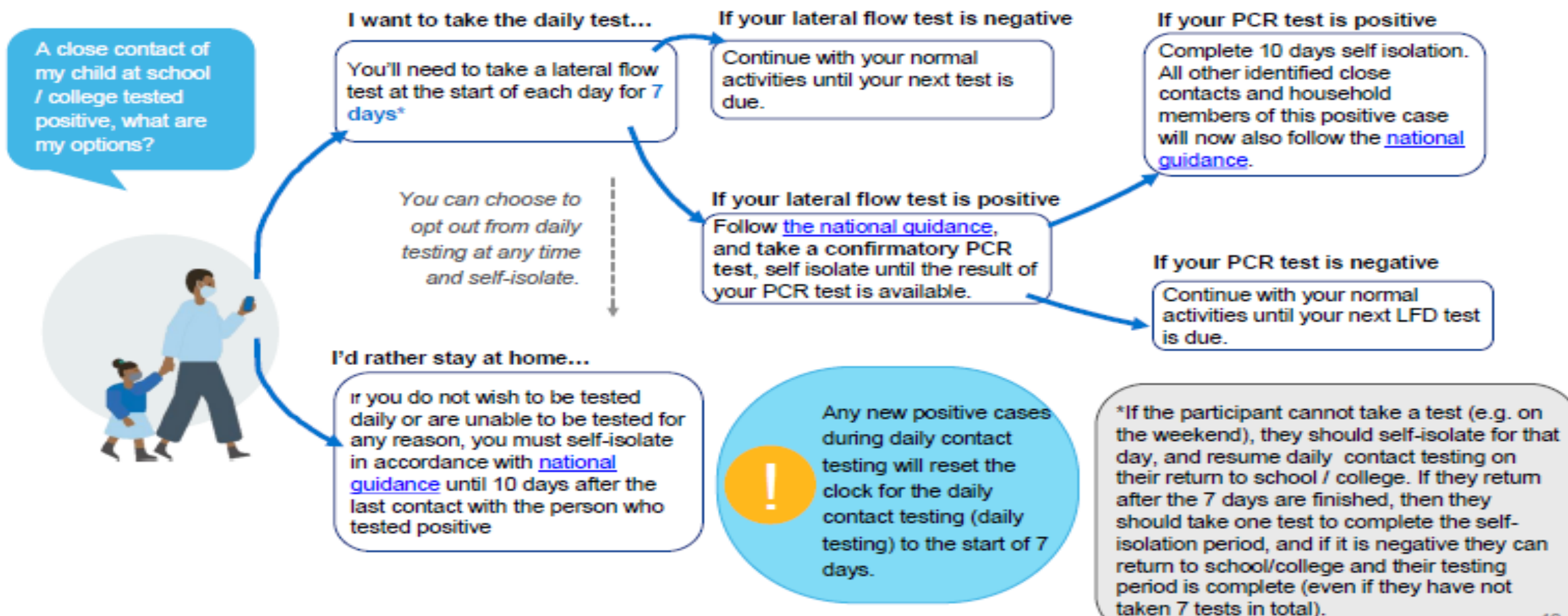


A new approach to close contacts – ‘daily contact testing’*

Printable guidance for Schools and Colleges

A new approach known as ‘daily contact testing’ has been developed to help find more asymptomatic cases. This will allow those (pupils/students and staff) who are in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return to school/college. If they agree to be tested for 7 days* following their last contact with a positive case.

IMPORTANT: If, at any point, a student, pupil or staff member begins displaying symptoms they must [follow government guidelines](#), [order a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.



Who is being tested and why?

Testing is important because staff, students and pupils without symptoms could be carrying the virus and may spread it to others. Testing staff and students will support schools and colleges by helping to reduce chains of transmission.




New, simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, enable us to rapidly test pupils, students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. Secondary schools and colleges will be provided with these test kits to conduct the testing.

We will keep schools and communities safer by working together to:

- 1** Test as many secondary pupils and students on their return to school and FE colleges for the spring term as possible. This means two LFDs tests three to five days apart.
- 2** Carry out weekly testing of school and college staff
- 3** Carry out daily contact testing for seven days of pupils and students and staff who are close contacts of a positive case

Lateral Flow Testing



-  Accessible and easy to use
-  No lab required, with fast results
-  Safe technology



The components of Rapid Testing

1

Test as many secondary pupils and students on their return to school and FE colleges as possible

When returning to their school or college, pupils and students will be offered two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests spaced three to five days apart (minimum three days).

A positive confirmatory PCR will be required for all positive cases.

2

Carry out weekly testing of school and college staff

Staff will be offered one LFD test starting from 4 January and on an on-going weekly basis thereafter.

A positive confirmatory PCR will be required for all positive cases.

3

Carry out daily contact testing of pupils, students and staff who are close contacts of a positive case

Those identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will be provided with daily testing for seven days.

If they test negative on a daily basis, they can continue to attend school without having to self-isolate.



This is a step change from current UK Isolation Regulations.