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Date	4 May 2021
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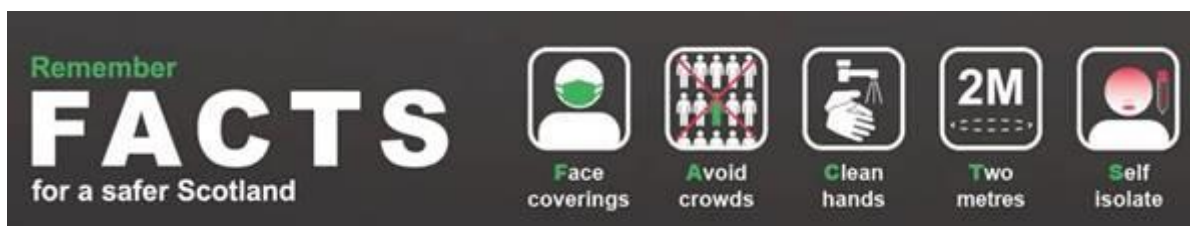
Dear Parent / Carer

Information for parents and carers on symptoms and testing

We know that these last few months have often been challenging, particularly for children, young people and you, their parents and carers.

Now that our schools and early years centres have returned, we want to ensure they remain open to allow our children and young people to continue their education in a safe environment.

COVID-19 continues to circulate within the community and we are all responsible for our actions to continue to reduce spread. COVID-19 requires contact between people to spread widely, therefore we must continue to follow the FACTS and ensure good ventilation when we meet.



In addition, to these simple measures we have recently introduced regular, twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing (LFT). The tests are available to collect in school for all secondary age pupils and we urge you to support young people to use them regularly. These tests are designed to help us identify when we have a COVID-19 infection without symptoms. When these LFTs are positive, we must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test (Polymer Chain Reaction) and wait for the Test and Protect team to call with more information and advice. Early identification and swift isolation prevents further spread within schools or early years centres and significantly reduces the number of children and young people who are identified as close contacts.

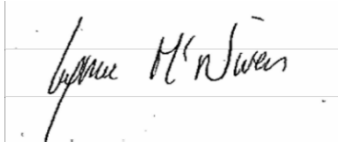
If children and young people have symptoms: cough, temperature, loss of taste and smell or other non-specific symptoms such as cold like symptoms, upset stomach / vomiting or fatigue then it is important to ask them to isolate and book a PCR test. Please err on the side of caution and do not presume it is 'just a cold'.

If we prevent COVID-19 from entering our schools and early years centres we will keep more children and young people in school during this crucial point in their lives.

Further information is available from:

- NHS Inform: www.nhsinform.scot
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran: <https://www.nhsaaa.net/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- South Ayrshire Council: <https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne McNiven', written on a white background with faint horizontal lines.

Mrs Lynne McNiven
Interim Director of Public Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Hutchison', written on a white background with faint horizontal lines.

Douglas Hutchison
Depute Chief Executive and Director - People