

25th February 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re: Covid-19 update

On 21 February the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's Covid-19 response. Covid-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

On Thursday 24th February, the Department for Education issued a guidance document to schools in relation to the changes to Covid-19 safety controls. In line with the guidance, the new rules in relation to Covid-19 are set out below.

Self-isolation due to a positive Covid-19 test

From Thursday 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid-19 test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. After 5 days, they **may choose to** take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) followed by another the next day - if both are negative, and they do not have a temperature, they can safely return to their normal routine. Those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at risk group, including if they live in the same household.

Covid-19 symptoms

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Other symptoms linked with Covid-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

If a person develops any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 or receives a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Tracing close contacts

Public health advice for people with Covid-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.



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Contacts are, however, advised to take extra care and avoid contact with other people.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer required for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Pupils can continue wearing a face covering if they prefer to do so.

Hygiene and cleaning regime

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

We continue with our existing enhanced cleaning regime and with keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Asymptomatic testing

From 21 February, staff and pupils in mainstream secondary schools will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population.

Schools are no longer supplied with home test kits for students or staff.

With best wishes,

Mr Brownhill
Headteacher

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