

28.2.22

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

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. The government priority is to support schools in continuing to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances and mental and physical health. The government have worked closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to revise this guidance.

As always, the safety of staff and children remains our priority and we will continue to review and update our risk assessments - treating them as 'living documents' - as the circumstances in our school and the public health advice changes. We will continue to have active arrangements in place to monitor whether the controls are effective and working as planned.

I hope that this email provides you with some clarity on the key changes to the guidance which will be implemented as of today. I have highlighted in [blue](#) direct links to government guidance for further information.

Key changes to the guidance since its 21 February 2022 publication include:

- Update to when an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test section to reflect new public health guidance from 24 February
- Update to tracing close contacts and isolation section to reflect new public health guidance from 24 February

LFD testing at home

From 21 February, staff and pupils in mainstream schools will **not be expected** to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic [testing advice for the general population](#). Most people without COVID-19 symptoms do not need to get lateral flow tests. In the event that an individual has symptoms they should follow the guidance below.

The school are no longer required to provide LFD tests for staff or students and will therefore no longer be provided with a stock to distribute.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow guidance on [People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#) if they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Pupils and staff should return to school as soon as they can, in line with guidance for People with COVID-19 and their contacts.

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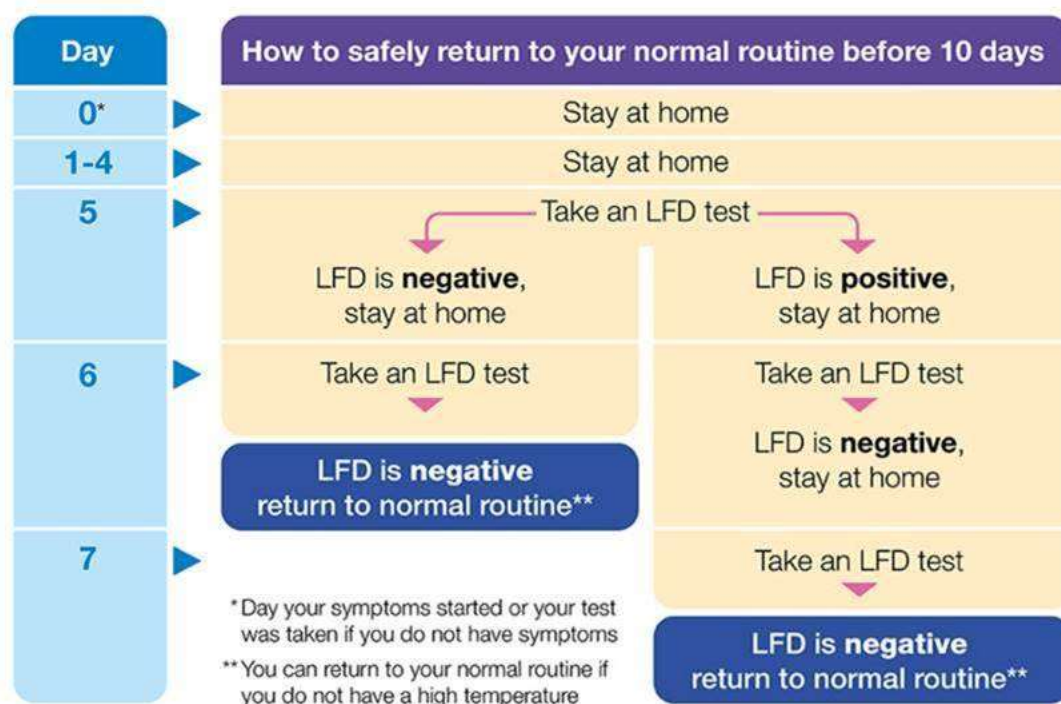


If you test positive for COVID-19 **you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people**. If well, staff and children will be supported in working from home during this period. To protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19, the school will continue to ask staff and children not to attend school if they have any of the key symptoms of COVID-19.

Individuals with symptoms should go for a PCR test (not LFD) and follow the advice below to reduce the chances of transmission. Staff and children may access LFD test kits, if required, from their local pharmacy or by [ordering online](#).

Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You are advised to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



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Tracing close contacts and isolation

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.

As people who live in the same household or have stayed overnight as someone with COVID-19 are at the highest risk of becoming infected because they are most likely to have prolonged close contact.

It is important that close contacts pay close attention to the main symptoms of COVID-19. If you develop any of these symptoms, order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for your test result.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. The school will continue to support colleagues who wish to continue to wear face coverings in school for their own personal reassurance.

The government suggests people continue to wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed spaces where they may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

The school reserves the right to reintroduce the temporary wearing of face coverings in the event that they are advised by the director of public health as part of our contingency plans.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions or need further clarity.

Kind regards



Susie Kirby

Headteacher

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