

Covid-19 updated guidance

Sent 01 Mar 2022 10:00

Dear Parent/carer

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 importance of reducing the disruption to 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 are set out below.

Self-isolation due to a positive Covid-19 test

From Thursday 24 February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive 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 test (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.

Anyone with Covid symptoms

If your child or anyone in your household has any covid symptoms the public health advice is to stay at home, avoid contact with other people and take a PCR test asap.

- IF the PCR is negative – they can return to school when they feel well enough
- IF the PCR is positive – they are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days

Tracing close contacts

Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be required to test daily for 7 days, and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.

Routine contact tracing will end. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.

Free testing will end from 1st April 2022 for the general public, including those with symptoms. However, the Government will continue to provide free tests for symptomatic people for the oldest age groups, and those who are most vulnerable.

Asymptomatic Testing

The government has removed the guidance for staff and students in education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing and will no longer be providing schools with testing kits.

Hygiene and cleaning regime

All other COVID measures within school remain in place, for example, additional cleaning during the day, sanitising measures and advice to keep rooms well ventilated.

Face Coverings

Students and staff are no longer required to wear face coverings in communal areas or classrooms unless there is a health reason for them to do so. Students who need to continue to wear face coverings will be issued with purple lanyards.

Before half term our COVID cases in staff and students were very low compared to local and national averages, however if we were to see increased cases, we would continue to follow our COVID contingency plans and additional measures as directed.

Links to further information/guidance

[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts)

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges)

Thank you for all your support.

Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre