

7th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As restrictions are lifting our process in managing positive cases of Covid-19 has changed. Within this letter, you will find details of what to expect if the school is notified of a **possible** or **confirmed** case of COVID-19 in the setting and what we will do should case numbers rise.

Where there is a possible case of coronavirus in the setting

If a child or member of staff develops symptoms of COVID-19, the individual concerned will be sent home. They will be asked to arrange a PCR test and to share the results with us.

Where there is a confirmed case of coronavirus in the setting

If a child or member of staff tests positive for COVID-19, they will be asked not to attend the school for at least 10 full days from the day after their symptoms appeared or, if asymptomatic, the date that the PCR test was taken.

Contact tracing will no longer be done by the school but by NHS Test and Trace. The approach to isolation has changed as legally contacts who are double vaccinated * and under 18s are no longer required to self-isolate. They will however be advised to take a PCR test, and anyone who tests positive following the PCR test will still be legally required to self-isolate, even if they have been vaccinated. Children under five don't routinely test but may be requested to take a PCR test if they are a household contact and this will be informed by NHS Test and Trace. Unvaccinated close contacts aged 18 and over should self-isolate for 10 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms and should continue this period of isolation even if they too have been tested and have received a negative test result.

** A double vaccinated person must have had their second vaccine at least two weeks prior to coming into contact with the positive case.*

What you can do

For secondary aged pupils it is vital that they continue to take **twice weekly lateral flow tests at home once the initial testing at school has been completed**. If the result is positive your child must isolate and get a PCR test within 2 days to confirm the result. We are currently awaiting delivery of lateral flow test kits which will be sent home with pupils once received.

For all pupils if they develop any of the following symptoms, we would ask that you **notify the school immediately** and arrange a PCR test by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119.

- A high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Returning to school

If the child has been PCR tested because they were showing symptoms and this has come back negative, or if they had a positive lateral flow test and the PCR test has come back negative, they can return to school once they are well. If they still feel unwell after a negative test they should stay at home until they feel better. If the child has been sick, has had a high temperature or diarrhoea, they must not return to the school for at least 48 hours after symptoms last showed.

What we will do

It is no longer our responsibility to inform the school community as a whole of cases as they occur. Our Outbreak Management Plan and schools individual Risk Assessments, found on school websites, detail the course of action we will take should the number of positive cases substantially increase.

The thresholds for further action are outlined in the government contingency framework:

[Contingency framework: education and childcare settings \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611207/contingency-framework-education-and-childcare-settings.pdf)

For our settings, that would mean if either:

- 5 pupils or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of pupils or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

At this point schools would work hand in hand with Pathfinder Schools Central Team and the local Public Health team to put mitigating actions in place.

Thank you once again for all you are doing to keep our schools and communities safe.



Ann Davey
Chief Executive Officer