



7th January 2022

RE: Covid-19 update

Dear Parent/ Carer,

You will no doubt be aware that cases of COVID-19 in Tameside remain of concern, as they do across the country. The infection rate is still well above the national average. We have been advised by Tameside Council's Public Health Team that there have been a number of cases of COVID-19 within our school community. Therefore, I am writing to provide clarity about the COVID-19 rules that have changed and also as a reminder about what hasn't changed in terms of advice about keeping safe.

How does the 'close contact' system work now?

The NHS Test and Trace team are responsible for identifying close contacts and will be in touch if they believe your child meets the criteria.

In line with the national guidance, children aged under 18 years are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms.

Your child may have been in contact with the positive cases. People who have been in contact with someone who has tested positive with COVID-19 are advised to do daily lateral flow tests at home for the next 7 days.

Please go to www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests to order tests online. These come in boxes of 7. They are also available to collect at local pharmacies.

Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months and fully vaccinated staff who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact are strongly advised to take a daily LFD before leaving the house for the first time that day and can then attend the setting as normal.

Please note people should not need to be re-tested via a PCR test within 90 days of a previous confirmed positive test, unless new symptoms develop, in which case they should book a PCR. Those who have had a confirmed case within 90 days **can** now participate in LFD testing.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate and you should arrange a test for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or by calling 119.

If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started, unless they have two negative LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their isolation (and do not have a high temperature). Please inform us if your child has a positive test result.

If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so.

Please visit the link to the guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infections:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms of COVID-19

If you or someone in your household develops symptoms of Covid-19, isolate and access a PCR test. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

However, people frequently present with a wider range of symptoms. If you or your child feel newly unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, then please access a PCR test. For many people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting COVID-19:

- wear face coverings in crowd places, especially when you are indoors
- if someone in your household test positive, it is encourage that household contacts obtain a PCR test and test daily using LFD tests, unless exempt
- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth & nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- allow ventilation in the house through opening windows
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Test and Trace Support Payments

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This now applies to parents/ carers who cannot work from home and will lose income by self-isolating or staying at home to care for the child.

Further details are available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

Further Information

Further information is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

In school we continue to ensure all rooms are well-ventilated, are encouraging the continued regular hand hygiene routines, have maintained changes such as separate lunches and we have continued to only operate virtual assemblies. We also encourage the twice-weekly use of LFD tests by students and of course have now expect the wearing of face coverings inside the building. Students have responded very positively to this; please thank them for this. If you would like your child to participate in the LFD home testing contact Mr Nixon here in school.

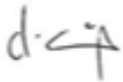
Finally, we also now ask that **all visitors** to school take an LFD test before to coming into the building, including parents and carers. This measure has been introduced by Tameside across all schools as another protective measure whilst the

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

risk of infection remains so high. Please go to www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests to order tests online. They are also available to collect at local pharmacies.

We are monitoring the situation closely and will continue to work with colleagues in public health to review our procedures over the coming months. These remain difficult times and we thank you for your ongoing support not only in the education of the young people of Denton but also the safety and wellbeing of the whole Denton Community College community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'd. cumming'.

Donald Cumming
Deputy Headteacher