



1 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

On Tuesday, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 from today, 1st April. The UK Health Security Agency has published guidance this morning, though not specific to school settings. We will update you if more information becomes available.

New guidance states:

- Free COVID-19 tests are no longer available, other than for specific groups including NHS staff and eligible patients.
 - adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
 - children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
 - adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.
- From today, education and childcare settings are no longer able to order test kits; this includes SEND, AP and social care settings. Residential SEND settings may be advised by local health protection teams to reintroduce tests as an “exceptional measure, for targeted groups of staff and pupils or students...in the event of a possible COVID-19 outbreak”.
- Surplus test kits should not be given to staff, pupils or students unless advised by a local health protection team or local authority.
- [Guidance](#) encourages continued use of hygiene measures including regular hand washing/sanitising, covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and regularly cleaning surfaces. [Guidance](#) for children and young people should stay off school if they have a high temperature and feel unwell, and can return once their temperature drops. There is no longer guidance for those previously considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, but [guidance for people whose immune system means they are at high risk](#) is available and encourages further steps such as wearing a face covering and working from home if possible.

We will write to parents/carers in due course when we receive the updated guidance from the DFE.

Yours sincerely

W Teece
Headteacher