

7 April 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Updated DfE guidance on living with Covid-19

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April. In line with this, the DfE has updated the specific advice for schools which we will follow from **Monday 25 April**, following the Easter break.

The key principle of the updated guidance is that Covid is to be managed in the same way as other respiratory illnesses. The [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\) health protection in education and childcare settings](#), contains an alphabetic list of infectious diseases. The guidance on Covid-19 is under 'R' for respiratory infections. Specifically on the circumstances in which a child or member of staff should not attend school, the guidance states:

- Students with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school
- Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough
- If a student has a positive Covid-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for three days after the day they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after three days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature
- Students who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend school as normal

Schools no longer have access to free Covid tests and students are advised not to test at all unless directed to do so by a medical professional regardless of whether they have symptoms or not. Guidance states that testing will be prioritised for the most vulnerable.

We will continue to ensure good ventilation and encourage regular hand washing. The advice also encourages the wearing of masks in crowded situations, such as on public transport.

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Attendance

Where a student is not attending because they are ill with symptoms of COVID-19 or have had a positive test, they will now be recorded as (I) ill in line with other sickness absence.

Remote Learning

Promoting good attendance and engagement with face to face teaching is a key priority underpinning these changes. Our schools will no longer be setting remote education for children and young people who are absent with Covid-19, in line with other respiratory illnesses.

We will continue to be vigilant and liaise closely with the local public health team should there be any signs of a Covid-19 outbreak in any of the schools and I will keep you updated should the guidance change at any point during the summer term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I wish you a good Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Simon Taylor
CEO