



Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Dear parents and carers

As you may be aware the Government last week released guidance on '[Living with COVID-19](#)'. setting out how 'England will move into a new phase of managing COVID-19' and removing any remaining domestic restrictions around the virus.

This note is to give you an update a summary of the key changes and updates to the guidance and how they affect your child at school. The DFE guidance is [available here](#). Once you have looked at this, please do talk to me or a member of staff about any questions you have, and we will help. And thank you for all your support in supporting your child to attend school and following guidance we give you.

### **Key guidance**

#### **If your child test positive or has one of the main symptoms of COVID-19**

The legal requirement to self-isolate has ended. However, public health advice is that if your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five days, and then until they have received two negative tests on consecutive days (up to ten days).

Main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change, in normal sense of taste or smell

If your child has any of these symptoms you should [order a free PCR test](#) and they are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people whilst waiting for the test result.

Should your child test positive but be well enough to learn, we will provide them with a remote education programme as we have done in the past.

Please can I ask you to continue to be follow the guidance that children should not attend school if they are infectious due to the potential risk to others – even if they are asymptomatic.

#### **If your child is a close contact of someone with COVID-19**

If your child lives with someone who has tested positive or stays overnight with someone who has tested positive, they are classed as a close contact. As has been the case for a while, the guidance is that they can continue to attend school as normal.

If they are a close contact, please let us know and we will give you additional LFD tests so that your child can test daily for seven days to minimise the risk of transmission to others.

#### **Twice weekly asymptomatic testing**

Whilst twice weekly testing advice has been removed for mainstream settings, it continues to be the advice for staff and secondary school age children in SEND and AP settings. This is because of the increased risk for some in these settings of poor clinical outcomes, as well as the higher risk of closures due to high staff/student ratios and the need to employ specialist staff.

We will continue to support your child with carrying out twice weekly tests – this will be in place until at least 1 April.

**Face coverings**

Whilst face coverings are no longer advised onsite at school, we ask that staff and pupils continue to wear face coverings when using the minibus and that pupils follow face covering use guidance provided by taxi companies.

I hope this is clear but please do ask us any questions you may have. Thank you for your support in helping minimise transmission of COVID-19 as well as ensuring your child comes to school to learn.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Haines', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Gary Haines

Head of Academy