



Thursday 13th January 2022

COVID Update – Spring Term 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you well. As we move into the Spring Term, I've no doubt that you will have been following the COVID updates over the last few weeks. I have included in the following information, details, reminders and updates that I hope you will find useful to support your child's return to school for the Spring Term.

Covid-19 Updates

Last week, the Department for Education released updated guidance for schools but there is very little, if anything, that has changed for primary settings. As throughout the pandemic, we will continue to ensure that health and hygiene is a priority. Children will continue to be encouraged to wash their hands frequently – as they arrive at school, after breaks, before and after lunch and at other regular intervals. The classroom will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of every day and we are also having touchpoints cleaned throughout the day.

Face Coverings

Staff will continue to wear a face covering when moving around corridors and communal areas within school. They are not required to wear a face covering when outdoors or in the classrooms. With regards to our children, the health advice continues to state that children in primary school are not required to wear face coverings and should not be asked to wear one. As parents, the choice continues to be yours as to whether you wear a mask when outside on school site, however, you may wish to especially if social distancing is not possible. Although phone and email correspondence is still the preferred method of communication with school, if there is a need for you to enter the school building, **a face covering must be worn** unless you are exempt.

LFD Testing

Given that positive Covid-19 cases are extremely high and are looking likely to continue to rise, testing is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. Staff in school will continue with their testing twice weekly to help us to stay ahead of the virus by quickly spotting new cases and planning our response. We also thank the families of Woodthorne that are supporting and engaging with the LFD testing process at home and would encourage all families to do so where possible.



Children who are unwell

Reminder: If your child displays symptoms of coronavirus...



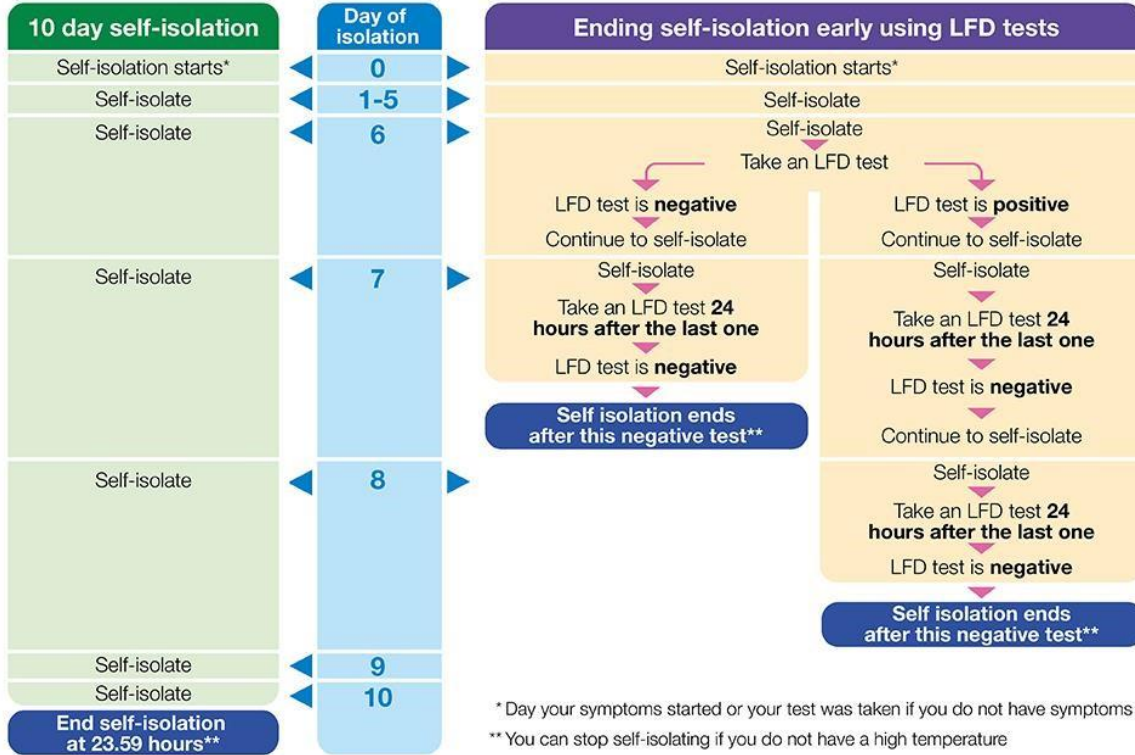
If your child displays any of the above coronavirus symptoms, please ensure that they self-isolate and that you book them in for a PCR test (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>). If a child is asymptomatic and test positive on a LFD test, then a confirmatory PCR test is not needed under current guidelines. It is assumed that they are positive and must self-isolate. Children's test results need to continue to be reported to the front office please. I feel it is also important to make parents aware that out of the number of positive cases we have seen, a large number of these in children have not demonstrated the known symptoms. We have seen a large proportion of children who were asymptomatic, had headaches, sickness, sore throats and general fatigue as being the most common, outside of the known symptoms. Therefore, it is important that we keep testing. Any reported pupil absences for 'any new ill health presentations, as well as those who become unwell whilst at school, are strongly encouraged to take a LFD test and not return to school unless the test returns a negative result and they feel well. **If no LFD test is taken**, the pupil will be able to return to the setting 48 hours after feeling well.

Updated Self-Isolation Guidance

As I am sure that you are aware, if you or your child does test positive on a LFD or PCR test, the guidance regarding self-isolation periods has been updated. Please ensure that you have read this guidance fully:

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

Below is a useful visual, taken from the guidance, outlining the changes to the isolation period (ending self-isolation early using LFD tests if you are double jabbed or under 18 years of age).



**Your child should not take an LFD test before the sixth day of their isolation period, and they should only end their self-isolation after they have had 2 consecutive negative LFD tests which should be taken at least 24 hours apart. They should stop testing after they have had 2 consecutive negative test results.*

For any close contact over the age of 5, who is not required to isolate, it is strongly recommended that they take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days after the household member who has COVID-19 started their self-isolation period if this is earlier.

Contact Tracing

Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing. NHS Test and Trace (T&T) will follow up with contacts of positive cases and give them advice depending on their circumstances. However, we will take advice from Public Health about how to communicate positive case information to you. Public Health advice is sought usually when we get to 5 cases in a class.

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Contingency plans for outbreaks

We continue to have remote education plans in place which have been shared with you previously. If your child has to self-isolate and is well enough, work can be provided for them to work through from home.

We will do all we can to keep school as “normal” as possible for your children in the coming weeks, however, it is feared that Covid illness/isolation periods may impact upon staffing levels in the near future. Any communication regarding updates will be via our text messaging service or email.

Before rounding off this letter, I would like to thank you in advance for working with us and supporting us, as you have done so since March 2020 when this pandemic began. We are sorry that we are not as visible on the gates or around school at present - as you can imagine, the workload COVID generates is enormous. But the most important thing is to keep our children and school community safe.

Yours faithfully,

T Hinkley
Headteacher