



7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardian,

We are writing in light of changes made to national policies on self-isolation and to provide information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

## CHANGES TO NATIONAL SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

*Some likely scenarios are described below along with our advice:*

### What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

**Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.**

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

### What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic



Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

### **What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?**

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

As long as your child has no symptoms, they are not required to isolate while awaiting the result of their own PCR test.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

### **What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19**

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool (children under the age of 5) children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

**Nursery and primary school pupils continue to not be asked to take lateral flow tests at this time.**

### **IN SUMMARY:**

**No symptoms** = carry on as usual

**Displaying symptoms** = isolate and order a PCR test

**Identified by track and trace as a close contact** = recommended to go for a PCR test (under 5s do not need to unless the contact is in their household). Can continue as normal whilst awaiting results.

**PCR result positive** = isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms or test date if asymptomatic.

**Inform school at all stages of any testing or results.**



## ACCESSING COVID-19 TESTING IN TAMESIDE

### Symptomatic testing and testing for close contacts

PCR tests can be booked at any of the DHSC run sites that operate Monday – Sunday 8am – 8pm on the gov.uk website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

There are two main sites for PCR Testing in Tameside, these are:

- Darnton Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, SK15 1NH
- Beeley Street, Hyde, SK14 2TB

PCR tests for home delivery can also be ordered by calling 119.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn  
Principal