

Covid-19 Update September 2021

We have used the DFE operational guidance to share the following key messages.

Bubbles Mixing and 'bubbles'

We no longer required to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Children are no longer required to isolate if they are positive contact. This includes being apposite contact with someone in living in the same household (please see below for further information).

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and **education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.**

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

Individuals are **not required to self-isolate** if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

As a school we feel we have a duty of care to inform you if there is a positive case within your child's class. We will do this via parent mail.

Information from NHS for **those identified as positive contact:**

Even if you **do not** have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19

- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

What to do if you or your child has symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test. [Check if people you live with need to self-isolate.](#)

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have any of these symptoms, get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have coronavirus and **stay at home until you get your result**, even if the symptoms are mild.

If you have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result after being tested because you had symptoms

If your PCR test result is negative but you still have symptoms, you may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or a stomach bug.

You should stay at home until you feel well and for at least 2 more days if you have had [diarrhoea or vomiting](#). Seek medical attention if you are concerned about your symptoms.

We will continue to contact you and ask you to collect any children, as soon as possible, who present with Covid symptoms during the school day.

Please find the DFE operational guidance at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

Thank you for your continued support.