

25th February 2022

Updated Covid-19 Restrictions

Dear Parent/Carer

You will, of course, have seen the announcement from the Prime Minister earlier this week about the changes to Covid-19 restrictions. We thought it may be helpful to set out what the changes mean for our schools and for the children and families who are a part of our Trust.

From Thursday 24th February 2022, people who test positive and anyone unvaccinated who has come into close contact with a positive case, will no longer be required by law to self-isolate. However, anyone who receives a positive test will be 'advised' to isolate.

We therefore will require the following to be adhered to by pupils and ask for your support as parents and carers:

- If your child has Covid-19, they should stay at home while they are infectious to others.
- This can be for up to 10 days from when the symptoms start. Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days.
- You can do a rapid lateral flow test from 5 days after your child's symptoms started (or the day they had a PCR test if they do not have symptoms) and another the next day.
- If both tests are negative and your child does not have a high temperature they can return to school
- If your child's test is positive on day 5, they can continue to do lateral flow tests until they get 2 negative results in a row or until day 10 of the isolation. At this point they can return to school.

We will also continue to request that children are collected from school should they present with any Covid-19 symptoms during the day. The current NHS advice is still to seek a PCR test if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. The link below gives information of the main symptoms of Covid-19 and how to seek a PCR test.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>

For children in our middle schools, the requirement for twice weekly asymptomatic testing has been removed and lateral flow tests are no longer available for collection from school.

FREEDOM TO GROW; STRENGTH YOU CAN TRUST

We would like to reassure our families that we continue to monitor the situation with regard to Covid-19. Our attention to cleaning procedures and ventilation will remain high and we have plans in place in case of localised outbreaks.

After two years of interruption to normal life it seems that we are now beginning to move towards learning to live with the virus. We will of course update you as and when any of the guidance or advice changes and we thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



N Greenough
CEO The Mast Academy Trust