



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

14th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that we have decided that the time is right to change our policy concerning isolation for both staff and students following a positive Covid-19 test result. As you will be aware, the academy policy up to this point has been to follow the Department of Education guidance regarding isolating at home, following a positive test. This guidance is available by following the link below:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/27/what-are-the-latest-rules-around-covid-19-in-schools-colleges-nurseries-and-other-education-settings/>

The advice remains that adults with a positive COVID-19 test result are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious. The advice for students is similar though for a period of three days. This guidance is not legally binding and has to be balanced with the potential impact on education for students.

We have been working extremely hard to mitigate the damaging impact of the pandemic and prolonged spells of both lockdown and self-isolation due to being confirmed cases over the last few years. The link between high levels of attendance and academic success has been demonstrated yet again by last year's Year 11, who received their results in the Summer. Another consideration we made is that there are many families who are no longer testing for Covid when one of their household develops potential symptoms. This may be because of a conscious decision or due to cost of living pressures. Students have already missed classes this term or have not been taught by their usual teacher due to positive Covid test results.

Therefore, in a discussion with FCAT senior leaders and all FCAT headteachers last week the decision was made to move to the following policy:

- If your son/daughter tests positive for Covid-19 or has symptoms of Covid-19 and they feel well enough to come in to school, then they can do so. There is no requirement for them to self-isolate for 3 days if they feel well enough to attend school
- If your son/daughter tests positive for Covid-19 or has symptoms of Covid-19 and they do not feel well enough to come into school then they should stay at home until they feel well enough to return
- Any support to minimise the risk of catching Covid-19 for clinically vulnerable students will continue

This decision has been made following a great deal of consideration and thought. It is the best way forward to balance the support for both staff and students, as well as ensuring education continues effectively. We, as always, thank you for your cooperation in this matter as we look to keep students in school and learning as much as possible.

Regards,

Mr. Careless
Headteacher