**New Covid Guidance – 1.4.22**

**Staff and pupils with respiratory infection and/or who test positive for Covid-19**

There has been prior notice of changes to the UKHSA guidance for the public from 1st April from the DfE.  The DfE have notified that the updated UKHSA guidance will advise:

People with respiratory infection:

Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

People who test positive for Covid-19:

Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days.

Children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days.

**Universal LFD Testing**

Twice weekly LFD testing for staff and pupils in mainstream school ended on 24th February.

Twice weekly LFD testing for staff and secondary age pupils in special schools remained in place and this is no longer recommended from 1 April and therefore twice weekly LFD testing will end for staff and secondary age pupils in special schools from 1st April.

Settings will no longer be able to order test kits.

Residential SEND settings may be advised by their local health protection team to re-introduce some time-limited LFD asymptomatic testing. This would be an exceptional measure, for targeted groups of staff and pupils or students (secondary age or above) in the event of a possible COVID-19 outbreak. These settings are scheduled to receive an automatic delivery of contingency supply test kits during the week commencing Monday 28 March.

Free universal asymptomatic testing will end from 1st April, this means that PCR testing sites and LFD testing sites will close on 30th/31st March and the general public will no longer be able to order tests by post.

For mainstream schools if you have LFD tests in school please retain any stock of LFD tests and further advice will follow when we have reviewed the forthcoming government guidance.

**People at higher risk from COVID-19**

Free symptomatic (PCR) testing will be provided for people who are eligible for COVID-19 treatments because they are at higher risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. People in this group will be contacted directly by NHS England and sent tests to keep at home for use if they have symptoms as well as being told how to reorder tests.