

Seven Stars Primary School COVID-19 guidance for parents/carers – September 2021

When should my child self-isolate or miss school?

- All children MUST attend school unless they are ill.
- Children under 18 and double-vaccinated adults do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household, or a contact, has Covid. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and you should book them a PCR test, NOT a Lateral Flow Test
- If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test.
- If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

What symptoms should I look out for and when should I get a test for my child/family member?

- **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

The CDC (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention) have identified the following as other potential symptoms:

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (more than normal)
- Fatigue, Muscle or body aches (beyond normal)
- Headache
- Sore throat, congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea

For any of the above symptoms children must stay at home or will be sent home immediately from school and told to get a PCR test (but can return to school as soon as it comes back negative and they are well enough to be in school). If you are not sure contact school for advice

What are the changes to the guidance for schools?

1. Mixing and 'bubbles'

Class 'bubbles' are no longer a requirement (although we will keep classes as separate as possible during the Autumn term e.g. children will still have their lunches with their class and playtimes will be within Key Stage groups)

Clubs (e.g. sports, choir, breakfast and after-school) will take place with children from different classes.

2. Tracing close contacts

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. School will no longer undertake contact tracing and will not be closing whole classes or school unless directed to do so by Lancashire Public Health.

3. Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer required for pupils, staff and visitors in classes, communal areas or playgrounds. However if anyone feels happier to do so they can (especially if in close contact e.g. on transport or crowded rooms)

What will stay the same?

Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for schools, pupils and students to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Staff will continue with twice weekly LFD tests until the end of September (when it is being reviewed nationally)
2. Frequent and thorough hand cleaning (washing and/or sanitisers) and generally good hygiene routines.
3. Good cleaning regimes will continue (e.g. of high touch areas as much as possible)
4. Good ventilation of classes and all other rooms (windows and doors opened some or all of day)
5. Vigilance about symptoms with continued testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19
6. Parents/carers only speak face to face with staff/office if have to. Phone, email or Dojo messaging is preferred.

In addition we will adopt a cautious approach during the Autumn term until we can see how the local situation develops.

Therefore:

- a) Continue to phone or send messages by email/dojo rather than come into school face to face if possible
- b) Ensure you and your child practice good hand hygiene when entering school
- c) Still try where possible to maintain some social distance on the playground (although it is not a requirement) and keep face-to-face conversations with staff and others at a 2 metres distance for as brief a time as possible
- d) Parents events may be limited initially (e.g. only the Shining Stars assembly in the first half-term and parents' afternoon/evening in November likely to be by phone call or Zoom). Other events such as MacMillan coffee morning may take place but with good hand hygiene and distancing in place

CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

Number of cases	Description	Actions
No cases in school	There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days. Cases of Covid locally are stable.	No Covid measures are necessary beyond those stated above and below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reminding children of good hand-hygiene. ○ Ensuring good ventilation encouraged where practical. ○ Ensuring children/staff to stay at home if they have Covid Symptoms (and to book a PCR test). ○ Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral Flow Tests.
A single child tests positive	A single child tests positive for Covid in a class. There are fewer than 5 cases in the class. No other year groups are affected.	The positive child/ren self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it (on Class Dojo) The parents of the child/ren are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace and advised to book a PCR Test. The school will contact parents to advise getting a PCR test if close contacts are known. This could be the whole class. Children and staff do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have Covid Symptoms.
5+ children or staff within a single class test positive within a 10 day period	There have been 5+ cases of Covid across a class within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children.	As above for each positive case. The school will discuss the outbreak with Lancashire/Public Health England and agree strengthening protective measures <u>for 10 school days</u> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging the use of face masks in corridors and communal areas ○ Staff-room capacity & communal mixing reduced ○ Adapting, limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances - including having parents in school ○ Reverting to Key Stage/Phase and/or Zoom assemblies ○ Reducing the amount of classes staff work across ○ Considering reintroducing stricter zones for children to play in ○ Clinically Extremely Vulnerable staff meet with Headteacher to review their individual risk assessment & discuss additional protection
Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.	Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school.	Seek advice from Lancashire/Public Health England. Agree further measures, including these possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-introducing class bubbles and distancing. ○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school. ○ Postponing all non-essential events. ○ Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for a specified amount of time. This will be a last resort.

All of the above plans and routines will be reviewed regularly in the light of the local situation.

There will be a formal review at the end of the first half-term when parents/carers will be communicated with about plans moving forward.

Thank you so much once again for your patience, understanding and support during this time as we hopefully get back into a more 'normal' school year (please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns)