



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

We understand there are concerns about Covid cases on the rise within Mid Sussex and have received queries from parents regarding this. We would therefore like to alleviate parental worries with regards to you and your family by confirming the following guidance.

COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains. The Government's priority is for schools to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

Government guidance states the following:

### **PCR Testing**

Staff and pupils with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Self Isolation**

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings are not 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.

Individuals are not required to self isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant), or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant), and they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months.

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. Young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant) should continue to attend school as normal.

### **Additional Measures**

Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.

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Headteacher: Mr P Newbold

Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures in schools should only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Control measures include ensuring good hygiene for everyone, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes and keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Please rest assured that the school is following this Government guidance and advice from Public Health England in order to keep your children and our staff safe.

As a school we have already taken the following measures:

- Moved to year group teams
- No whole school gatherings, i.e. assemblies
- Separate year group areas at break and lunch times
- Continued with good hygiene; hand sanitisers and washing hands
- Enhanced cleaning in all areas including continuing with fogging

Although there is no Government requirement for primary school children to carry out lateral flow testing, we strongly recommend that you carry out testing on yourselves and your family in order to identify positive cases that may be symptom free. If you are a close contact and awaiting a PCR result it may be advisable to carry out daily lateral flow testing until the PCR result is received.

Hopefully the table attached will provide a quick reference guide for you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Newbold  
Headteacher

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### Covid-19 – what to do

Covid-19 Symptoms	Take a PCR test	<p><b>Self isolate</b> until result received. Email result to school</p> <p><b>Negative</b> - return to school if feeling well enough</p> <p><b>Positive</b> – continue isolating until the date given to you by Test and Trace. Please inform the office of the return to school date as given to you by Test and Trace</p> <p>After period of self isolation, if no high temp can then return to school (cough or lack of taste can last for several weeks)</p> <p><b>If high temp</b> after 10 days seek medical advice</p>
Positive LFT	Take PCR test	<p><b>Organise a PCR within 2 days</b> of having the positive LFT.</p> <p><b>Self isolate</b> until PCR result received. Email result to school</p> <p><b>Negative</b> - return to school if feeling well enough</p> <p><b>Positive</b> – continue isolating until the date given to you by Test and Trace. Please inform the office of the return to school date as given to you by Test and Trace</p> <p>After period of self isolation, if no high temp can then return to school (cough or lack of taste can last for several weeks)</p> <p><b>If high temp</b> after 10 days seek medical advice</p>
Close contact (household)	Recommend PCR	<p>To carry on attending school unless develop symptoms or positive PCR returned</p> <p>The PCR appointment will be authorised</p>
Close contact (non-household)	Recommend PCR	<p>To carry on attending school unless develop symptoms or positive PCR returned</p> <p>The PCR appointment will be authorised</p>

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