

# Coronavirus Update – September 2021

Over the summer, government policies on self-isolation have changed. Below you will find further information on how COVID-19 will be managed in the school this term.

## Changes to self-isolation guidance

From 16th August, the government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, such people will be advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual.

## What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school. Please contact the school to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

## What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

### **What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?**

If your child does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19. They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

### **What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19**

Your child should remain at home if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer.

**To arrange for a COVID PCR test, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>**

### **Home learning**

As you can see from the changes above, children who are isolating will generally either have symptoms (and be waiting for a test) or will be confirmed as having COVID-19. If your child is in this situation, we want your child to make a speedy recovery. We will not be encouraging your child to complete work when they are ill. Please keep in touch with us and if your child is well but must continue isolating, please let us know and we will provide remote learning using Google Classroom.