

4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Living with COVID-19 – Updated information

Dear parent / carer,

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April. Most of the COVID-19 specific guidance for education and childcare settings have now been withdrawn from GOV.UK.

Guidance specific to education and childcare settings can now be found in the UK Health Security Agency: Health protection in education and childcare settings documents which you can access here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3kz7h7>

New and updated UKHSA guidance for the general population, which will also be relevant to education and childcare settings, includes:

[guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19](#)

[living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)

Going forward, parents/carers should refer to these documents as up-to-date guidance on what to do if you suspect your child has a respiratory infection, including COVID-19.

Updated guidance advises, but does not require:

- 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.

**It is worth noting that due to guidance on testing being removed and the removal of free symptomatic and asymptomatic testing, parents/carers going forward are unlikely to know if their child has COVID-19 or whether it is another respiratory infection. Twice weekly testing guidance has been removed and there is no guidance for adults or children to be testing at home, whether asymptomatic or symptomatic.**

The guidance states that the population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

In our most up-to-date risk assessment it states:

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, the general public will no longer have access to free symptomatic and asymptomatic testing. From this date, schools' **requirement** for staff and students to refrain from attending following a positive COVID-19 test or the emergence of COVID-19 symptoms ends.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, staff, as with any illness, should not attend work if they are not fit for work. Staff should follow the school's Absence Policy. Children should not attend school if they are not fit to do so. They should follow the procedures for any other form of student absence, including respiratory infections.

If you have any questions, as always please do not hesitate to ask / get in touch.

Many thanks,



Mr Holmes

Headteacher