

Covid-19 Parent Frequently Asked Questions - September 2021

In line with government guidelines, we have updated our risk assessments to ensure we retain some of our safety measures to attempt to reduce the transmission of Covid-19.

National Guidance around self-isolation has now significantly changed meaning people who have been fully vaccinated or are under 18 years and 6 months no longer have to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case of Covid-19.

We understand that the changes to this guidance may result in questions from parents. Therefore, we have summarised those we are frequently asked below.

In all circumstances, please keep school updated about any symptoms, close contacts or positive cases. If you have any other questions, please get in touch.

Q. If my child has Covid-19 symptoms, can they come to school?

A. No, if your child has any symptom of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they should remain at home.

Any child displaying Covid-19 symptoms should get a PCR test. Please note: a negative result on a lateral flow test is not sufficient to prove they are negative. Any child/person who is displaying symptoms, must get a PCR test.

If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative, and they are well enough to do so, they can return to school.

Q. If my child has symptoms, can they return to school after a negative lateral flow test?

A. No. Anyone with symptoms must take a PCR test and it is not recommended that children below the age of 12 take lateral flow tests.

Q. If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

A. Yes, the child can continue to come to school if they have no symptoms. The person with the symptoms should get a PCR test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

Q. If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

A. Yes. However, if a member of the household tests positive, we ask, as a precaution, that children get a PCR test but do not need to stay off school whilst awaiting results.

Please note that if your child does display any symptoms, they must remain off school and seek a PCR test in line with information in Q1.

Q. If my child is identified as a close contact from the community, can they come to school?

A. Yes. If a child is identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, again we ask that they seek a PCR test but are able to return to school whilst they await their result.

Please note that if your child does display any symptoms, they must remain off school and seek a PCR test in line with information in Q1.

Q. If someone in my child's class has symptoms, what happens?

A. In line with our school risk assessment, any child displaying Covid-19 symptoms will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

Q. If someone in my child's class tests positive, what will happen?

A. The child who tests positive will self-isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS Test and Trace. NHS Test and Trace will then work with parents and the child who has tested positive to identify any close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then contact these individuals. In exceptional cases, NHS Test and Trace may contact school to help with identifying close contacts.

Q. Will school let us know if there is a positive case?

A. As it now currently stands, in line with Government guidelines, we will not routinely let parents know if there is a positive case of Covid-19 in your child's class. NHS Test and Trace will not work to identify any close contacts and will be in touch with the parents of children identified as close contacts directly to provide advice.

Q. Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

A. No, this is not a requirement for primary schools as these are not recognised on children under 11 years old; however, this is at the discretion of parents.

Q. What happens if a number of children at school test positive?

A. If this happens, we will involve Public Health and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

Q. What happens if a staff member tests positive?

A. If a staff member tests positive, they will self-isolate for 10 days.

Q. If my child is self-isolating, will they get work?

A. Yes. If your child is self-isolating and is well enough, we will implement our remote education plan and set work for them to complete at home using our 'eSchools' system.

Q. If a parent has been identified as a close contact and is not required to self-isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

A. Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions. As well as getting a PCR test, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask on the school site
- Maintain social distancing from other families and staff