



St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School

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COVID MEASURES UPDATE

Dear Parents,

As you will no doubt be aware, on 21st February, the end to the legal enforcement of Coronavirus restrictions such as face masks and mandatory self-isolation was announced.

However, the virus remains ever present in our communities and we are still required to take cautious and sensible measures to minimise the spread of infection. Whilst the recent announcement has removed the legal requirements, the actions required in the event of positive cases remain strongly advised. You can read the full guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

This letter aims to outline how this new guidance will be implemented in school.

- Staff are no longer required to wear a face mask when moving around the school. They can do so if they wish but it is now a matter of personal choice.
- Staff are no longer required to conduct routine lateral flow tests but may do so if they choose.
- Parents are no longer asked to wear face coverings, but again, may choose to do so.
- We will continue to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, and children will continue to be asked to wash their hands during the day. Enhanced cleaning of premises and equipment will also remain.
- From today, our usual timetable will be reinstated which allows children to mix more freely at breaktimes. We will also be gradually returning to whole-school worship in the hall, and can return to things like Buddies and Year 6 jobs around school.
- It is our aim to return to offering face to face parent consultations, having parents in to watch class assemblies and holding PTA events, such as the forthcoming disco.
- ***All of the above is dependent on whether there is any outbreak of Covid in school again.*** Should there be an outbreak, some measures may have to be reintroduced and we will continue to seek advice from Hertfordshire County Council and public health for implementation of our outbreak management plan.

Symptoms and positive cases:

If children show any symptoms whilst they are in school we will still be sending them home.

The government guidance says:

- Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive.
- People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- Anyone with one or more symptoms of coronavirus - a high temperature, a new continuous cough; or a loss or change in sense of smell or taste - should self-isolate and book a test or call 119.

The following information is taken from the document listed at the beginning of this letter:

If you have COVID-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people

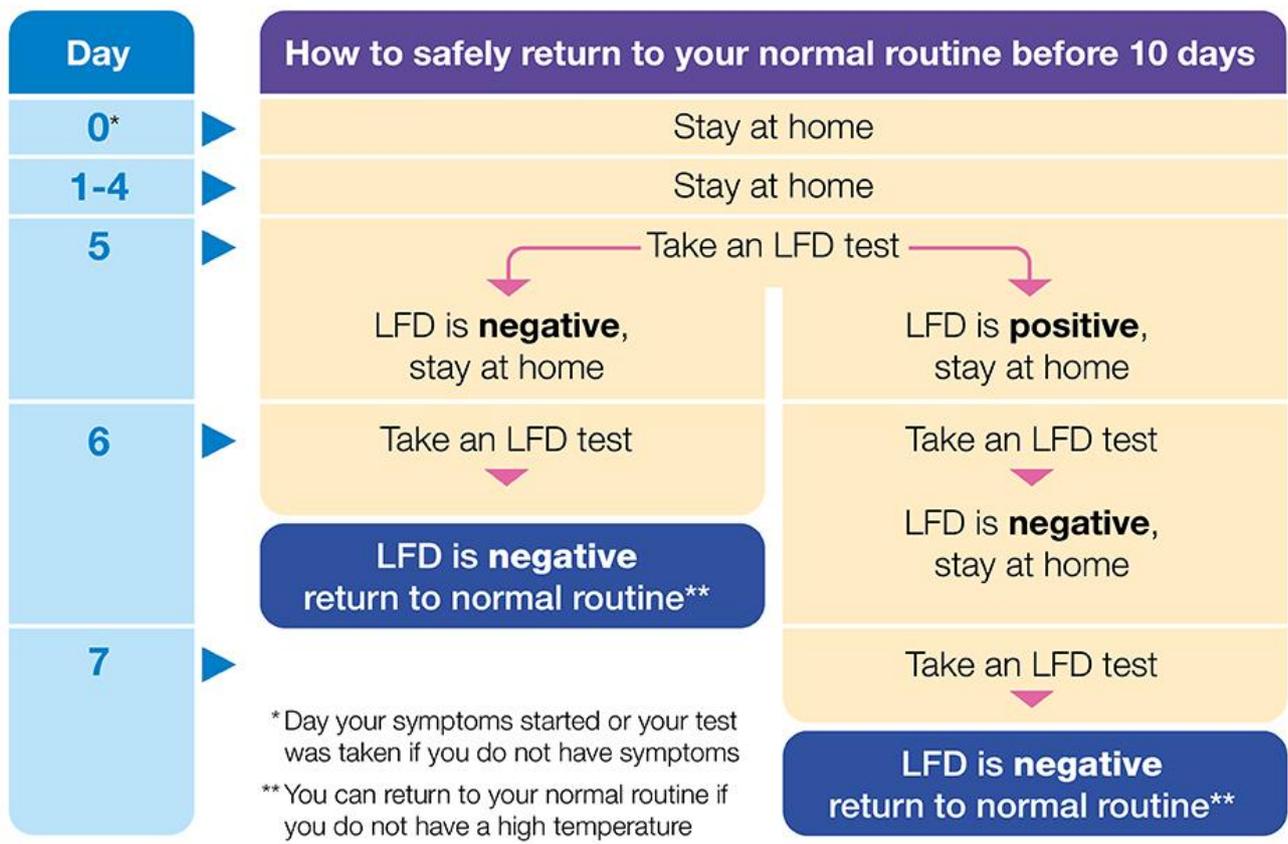
If you have COVID-19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. If you have COVID-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

You should:

- not attend work. If you are unable to work from home, you should talk to your employer about options available to you. You may be eligible for [Statutory Sick Pay](#)
- ask friends, family, neighbours or [volunteers](#) to get food and other essentials for you
- not invite social visitors into your home, including friends and family
- postpone all non-essential services and repairs that require a home visit
- cancel routine medical and dental appointments. If you are concerned about your health or you have been asked to attend an appointment in person during this time, discuss this with your medical contact and let them know about your symptoms or your test result
- if you can, let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result so that they can follow this guidance

Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day.

If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.



In summary, whilst we can now remove some of the restrictions we have had in school over the last few months, the actions necessary in the event of a child or staff member testing positive has not changed. **Please continue to inform us immediately if your child is positive.**

Whilst we are not officially required to notify parents of any positive cases in school, we will continue to send texts to inform you if there is a case in your child's class, as we know that this helps you as parents to be on alert if necessary.

As before, we will continue to set work on Google Classroom if children are well enough to complete learning at home.

You may have also heard in the news that covid tests will no longer be free of charge from April 1st 2022. I understand that there will be new guidance published on April 1st to reflect this so I will continue to inform you of any relevant changes.

In the meantime, thank you once again for your unfailing support and cooperation throughout the entire pandemic, even when things have been difficult – I am so truly grateful to you all.

Kind regards

RPeddie

Mrs RE Peddie
Headteacher

