

September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I write to share with you the most up to date guidance issued to schools by the Department for Education. Please read this letter alongside the previous letter sent out in July 2021 (available on the school website)

Main Points

Here are the main messages of the government's most recent guidance that are relevant for primary schools:

- *schools are open, and attendance is mandatory*
- *the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only*
- *school staff are continuing to take regular rapid tests to help us identify infections early and reduce transmission*
- *schools will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace*
- *children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal*
- *your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')*
- *the government is removing the requirement to wear face coverings in law*

What to do if you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test:

Do not send your child into school if:

- they are showing one or more [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#)
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are [required to quarantine](#)

You should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

The guidance also states that if your child is unwell with signs of an infection, but does not have symptoms of COVID-19 then your child should not attend school. If you are concerned, you should seek advice from your GP or pharmacist who will be able to advise you how long your child should remain absent. Otherwise, we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until your child is symptom free.

If you insist on your child coming into school when they have symptoms or signs of an infection, we can take the decision to refuse your child if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Our decision would be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

What to do if someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case, and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households](#).

For any further details access the most recent government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

Yours sincerely

Mr. R. Hughes