



19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

**Re: Covid-19 Measures**

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, the Prime Minister's announcement was part of wider plans to end Plan B coronavirus measures in England. As a result, a number of changes have been made to the current COVID-19 measures within the Trust.

**Updated guidance on the use of face coverings**

From Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January, facemasks will no longer be required in college classrooms for students. Individuals will be recommended to wear face coverings in enclosed or private spaces, but this will be a personal judgement. The current rule also requires everyone aged 11 and over to wear face coverings in most public indoor venues and on public transport.

**Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

Since Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for Covid-19 has been reduced to 5 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Pupils may now take LFD tests on day 5 and day 6 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive a negative test result will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a LFD on both day 5 and 6 and do not have a temperature. Please log the results of these tests on Test Register as usual. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self- isolation.

**Daily testing for contacts of Covid-19**

A new national approach to daily testing for contact of Covid-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also keep learners in face to face education. Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and pupils should do a lateral flow test each day for 7 days and report the results to the NHS through the Online Reporting System and to the School. If they test negative, they can continue to attend school. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

**Further points**

We continue to encourage all staff and pupils to test twice weekly using lateral flow devices (LFD) and to report results to both the NHS and school and we urge everyone to ensure they engage with the vaccination programme, including boosters when eligible.

As a final note, could I please remind you that pupils should not come into school if they are experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and arrange a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Best wishes

Heidi Faure  
**Chief Officer – Operations**