

1st September 2021

Dear Parents, Carers,

Management of Covid-19

You will be aware that management of Covid -19 in schools and across the country has changed in the last month or so. I wanted to take the opportunity to summarise how these changes affect our school.

We will continue to have a risk assessment in place to comply with health and safety law. There are still control measures set out in the guidance that we will be following including: -

- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory hygiene
- Appropriate cleaning schedules
- Keeping rooms well ventilated

The guidance states that bubbles are no longer required, this includes lessons, lunch and play times. However, in the event of a local outbreak, it may be necessary to reintroduce bubbles or other management plans for a temporary period.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. Therefore, you may still see staff wearing face coverings due to certain situations or through personal choice.

It is important that we continue to protect our school community by following the rules on self-isolation. Self-Isolation is when you do not leave your home because you have or might have coronavirus, this helps stop the virus spreading to other people.

Self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of covid-19, even if they are mild:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Pupils and staff should not come into school if they have symptoms (even if they have been vaccinated). Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms (however mild) should be sent home to follow public health advice to self-isolate and get a PCR test.

You should also self-isolate straight away if :

- You have tested positive for COVID-19, this means you have the virus
- Someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – see below)

- You've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive by NHS Test and Trace (you can be fined if you do not self-isolate when told to do so)
- If you have returned from abroad where quarantine rules apply.

If someone you live with has symptoms of covid-19, or has tested positive for covid-19, you will not need to self-isolate if 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, you will be contacted by NHS test and trace, informed you have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. NHS test and trace will identify close contacts through reported positive cases and if the parent specifically identifies individuals as being a close contact.

For positive test results the self-isolation period is 10 days. We will continue to support families through remote learning, contact with the teacher and support where possible during the isolation period.

Please do not think that coronavirus has gone away, cases in Doncaster have increased over the holiday period and as schools re-open it makes sense to guess that cases will rise even further. We must work together in ensuring that our school community continues to be safe, healthy, and protected from this virus by following the rules laid out by the government.

[When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do-coronavirus-covid-19)

[Symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/symptoms-of-coronavirus-covid-19)

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection)

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs L.A. Chappell
Principal