



22/02/2022

Re: Living with Covid-19 update

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable half-term and here we find ourselves almost two years on from the first lockdown and with another twist in the Covid tail.

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced the Government's Living with Covid-19 and published a 63 (sixty-three!) page document which you can find here: [COVID-19 Response - Living with COVID-19.docx \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104447/COVID-19_Response_-_Living_with_COVID-19.docx).

In the context of schools, DfE have also contacted the school directly, so I wanted to share with you the key information with regards schools, as it is slightly different to how the news was reported last night.

Here is what DfE have told us with regards testing (I am quoting directly from DfE):

From today, Monday 21 February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

Given we now know that the risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are very low, and our successful vaccination programme has achieved a high rate of take-up, we can remove this advice, bringing education into line with wider society.

Staff and students of secondary age and above in SEND settings, alternative provision settings, and SEND units within mainstream settings or equivalent in further education colleges are advised to continue twice-weekly testing. Staff in residential units in children's social care (open and secure children's homes) and children of secondary age and above in open children's homes are also advised to continue twice-weekly testing. Children and young people arriving in secure children's homes should test on arrival.



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The education testing delivery channels will remain open so that staff and students of secondary age and above can access tests if needed to respond to local public health advice, in particular in relation to outbreaks. Staff and students are also able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or [online](#). If you are due to receive a delivery of test kits during this week you will receive a separate communication in relation to this.

For more information, please visit our [frequently asked questions](#) on the document sharing platform.

With regards testing kits, as DfE mention above, we have not received a new supply and we are waiting to see if they come. If they do then we will let you know.

With regards self-isolation rules and schools, here is what DfE have instructed:

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the Government will:

**In terms of Pitsford School, I would expect any students (or staff) who test positive to stay at home for at least five days and then continue to follow guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days (as laid out above).**

The DfE guidance has also made clear that free testing is to be stopped on 1<sup>st</sup> April (our last day of this term) but as noted above we have not received new tests yet for this half of term.

Such drama and change! I hope the extracts above make sense and if/when things change again then I will contact you again. As before, if students feel more comfortable wearing masks in school then I am happy for that to continue and we will maintain our heightened precautions to ensure the greatest amount of safety for everyone in the community.

Yours sincerely,

CG Walker

PS what a cool date – 22/02/2022. I see that as a good omen.



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