

## COVID-19 UPDATE: February 2022

In response to the government's "Living with COVID-19" strategy there have been changes to the guidance issued to schools.

**Staff and pupils/students in secondary schools are no longer expected to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing**, and lateral flow tests will no longer be available from school. In the event of an outbreak this could be reintroduced by the local public health authorities.

The legal requirements around self isolation have been removed, but the school will still continue to follow government guidance:

- **Those displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should undertake a PCR test**, and are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others whilst awaiting the result. In addition to the main three symptoms the guidance now refers to other symptoms which have been linked to COVID-19. Click [here](#) for more details.
- **Those with COVID-19 should not attend school whilst they are infectious.** They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to school, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. If the day 5 LFD test result is positive, they can continue taking LFD tests until they receive 2 consecutive negative test results.
- **Close contacts will no longer be required to self isolate or advised to take daily tests** regardless of vaccination status. They should continue to attend school as usual. Those who live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID-19 are advised to take extra precautions set out in the government guidance. Other close contacts are at a lower risk of becoming infected.

The current government guidance is published online at <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 includes further information for those who at the higher risk of becoming severely unwell. This guidance is due to be updated again on 1 April.

As a school we will continue to apply the following control measures set out by the Department for Education and local authority:

1. **Ensure good hygiene for everyone**, including regular washing or sanitising of hands throughout the day
2. **Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes**, including more regular cleaning of contact points during the day
3. **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated**, including opening windows and doors where possible
4. **Follow public health advice on testing, self isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19** (as outlined above).

Thank you for your support.

The Roundhay Team