



24 February 2022

Ref: JCH/DD

Dear parents/carers,

Updated Covid-19 Guidance

As you will be aware, the government has recently updated the guidance for Covid-19, relating to isolation rules and contact information. I have summarised the main areas below. It is important to note, that much of the previous rules are still in place and although there is not necessarily a legal requirement, the government does strongly advise that certain procedures are still followed, which I am sure you will agree are in the best interests of our children, staff and families.

The following is taken from updated guidance published by the government today – 24 February 2022:

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending your school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

Know the symptoms of COVID-19

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result

What to do if you have COVID-19

The most effective way to avoid passing on COVID-19 infection is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

When someone with COVID-19 breathes, speaks, coughs or sneezes, they release small particles (droplets and aerosols) that contain the virus that causes COVID-19. These particles can come into contact with the eyes, nose or mouth or can be breathed in by another person. The particles can also land on surfaces and be passed from person to person via touch.

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while 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 their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. and contact tracing has ended.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Staff and pupils should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school.

A director of public health might advise you that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils, staff and visitors, unless exempt).

To summarise:

As a school, we will be following this guidance as this is completely sensible to support the health of everyone at Cleethorpes Academy, especially those who would be classed in a vulnerable category. I am sure you will agree and be supportive of this, as attending school, when someone knowingly has the Coronavirus or has symptoms. places others at risk. Therefore:

- In line with government guidance, our strong advice and wishes are that children do not attend school if they have symptoms of Covid-19;
- In line with government guidance, our strong advice and wishes are that children do not attend school if they have tested positive for Covid-19;

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- In line with government guidance, if a parent insists that their child attends school when they have tested positive for Covid-19 and has not isolated for the recommended period, we do have the right to refuse the pupil, if for example, we believe it is necessary to protect others from infection;
- If your children do fall into any of the above categories, please continue to let us know in the normal way either via email on enquiries@cleethorpesacademy.co.uk or by telephone on 01472582310;
- · Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended. Therefore, children should always attend school unless they have symptoms themselves or have tested positive themselves:
- We will continue to liaise with the local Public Health team, if for, example, we do start to see a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases, which might mean that we have to adjust our procedures in line with our risk assessment.

As a school community, I feel that we have worked extremely well together over the last two years and have managed the Covid-19 situation as well as we possibly could have done together. I have no doubt that you will be supportive of the new measures and guidelines.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J C Hornby

Principal

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