

## Parents and Carers

25 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that your children have settled back into school following the February half-term and that any disruptions caused by the storms will soon be resolved. The government has launched its living with covid strategy which means that the laws for COVID-19 testing and self-isolation have changed. The main changes are:

- removal of the guidance for the majority of the school population to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing
- removal of the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive COVID-19 test
- removal of the legal requirement for those not fully vaccinated to self-isolate
- no longer asking fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days
- ending routine contact tracing
- ending self-isolation support payments

There is still government guidance in place that recommends that those in secondary Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision should continue to test twice a week.

**Government guidance also continues to recommend that if you test positive you should stay at home/avoid contact for at least five full days and continue to isolate until you have received two negative tests on consecutive days.**

Headteachers and Principals continue to work hard to make sure that their schools and colleges are as safe as they can be for your children. They will respond to the changed guidance in the best way for their own specific context.

Many of the current expectations that schools and colleges have set in place to manage COVID-19 transmission will remain in place until the end of this term. This includes asking pupils and staff with COVID-19 symptoms and/or a positive test result to remain off school for at least 5 days (in line with [latest national guidance](#)). You can support by following the guidelines that the school sets for their school communities.

Further updates to government guidance are due on 1 April. We will review practice again then, ready for the return to school after the Easter holiday.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to protect your school community.

Yours faithfully,



Darrell Gale FFPH  
Director of Public Health



Elizabeth Funge  
Assistant Director Education