



Holywell Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Coert van Straaten MA, Ed, Dip Edu, NPQH

We are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

1 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to clarify the school's expectation regarding COVID19 since the government announcement on the 21st February 2022.

Whilst it is not a legal requirement to self-isolate when infected with COVID, we ask that you take steps if your child shows any of the main symptoms of Coronavirus.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

The guidance states that to stop the spread the virus, while it is not a legal requirement to stay at home, staying at home will help to stop the spread of the virus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

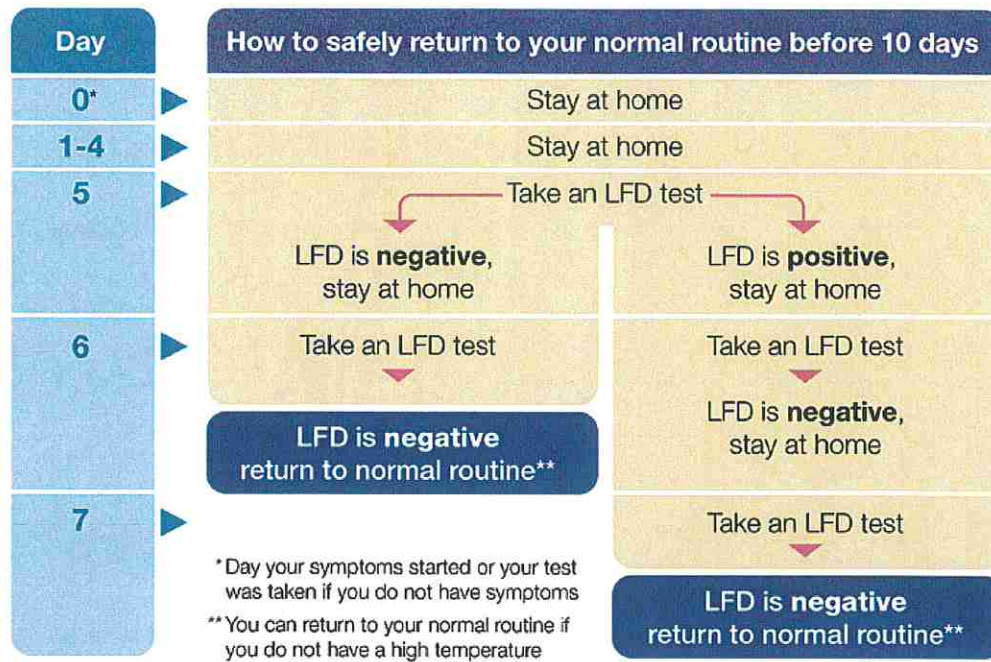
We are therefore advising that a test be taken to establish if your child is ill and follow public health advice. The information available publicly shows when those infected can return to a normal, daily routine. If your child comes to school unwell or becomes unwell during the day with these symptoms, your child will be sent home and you will be advised to get them tested.

Asymptomatic testing stopped on 21 February in schools for staff, and the mandatory wearing of face coverings has been removed; this is now a personal choice but we ask that you still wear face coverings while visiting assemblies on a Friday. Whilst we cannot enforce this, we feel this small measure will keep the whole school community safe while we start to increase the capacity of school assemblies.

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How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



The baseline measure to control the spread of Coronavirus in the school is:

- Pupils, staff and adults with COVID symptoms, a positive test result or who are a close contact should follow the government guidance.
- Pupils and staff should return to school as soon as they can in line with guidance.
- Continue to ensure good hygiene and keeping spaces ventilated.
- Continue to encourage update of vaccinations.

We will monitor cases closely in school and we will be stepping up the measures as cases increase or when we risk a local outbreak.

We will take extra caution when

- Higher than previously experienced or rapid increased number of staff or student absences.
- Evidence of severe disease i.e. hospitalisation.
- Cluster of cases causing concern linked to a vulnerable pupil or adult.

We will continue to ensure good hygiene, maintain appropriate cleaning regimes, keep occupied spaces well ventilated and follow public health advice on self-isolation to ensure we can provide pupils with quality face-to-face education.

Yours faithfully


Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher