



Educating, Enabling, Evolving



Dysart School, 190 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 6HL  
020 8412 2600  
www.dysartschool.org  
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**Principal: Leigh Edser**  
**Vice Principal: Emmet Murphy**

## **Dysart school parent letter based on UKHSA Warn and Inform, 19/01/22**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since returning to school this January 2022 term, we have had an increase in COVID-19 cases reported to us affecting both staff and pupils. This has impacted the school, resulting in temporary and brief closures of some classes. Case numbers are continuing to rise in the school. However, the school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We have taken advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA, formerly Public Health England) and Kingston Council Public Health team. We need your support to help us reduce COVID-19 in the school and protect our pupils and staff:

### **What we need you to do:**

**Testing:** we appreciate that it is not possible for all of our pupils to test or be tested, but if your child can,

- please do twice weekly lateral flow testing (also known as 'LFT' or 'LFD' or 'rapid' tests) for your child who attends the school
- If your child has had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, follow advice to test more frequently after contact (if possible, please do daily lateral flow tests for 7 days. Free tests may be available from the school or you can order online at: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>). See [our Kingston testing web pages](#) for further details.
- Given the current prevalence and high case rates of Omicron, the latest guidance for those with no symptoms is that a positive LFT test result should be considered a reliable indicator that you have Covid - therefore a confirmatory PCR test would not usually be necessary. Positive LFT test results should, however, be registered on the national website (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>)

### **Symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test?**

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of, or change to normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child develops any of these symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 with a PCR or Lateral Flow Device test (LFD test), you must take the actions below. These 3 basic symptoms are not an exhaustive list, and particularly with Omicron at this time - even if your child has mild cold-like symptoms, please follow this advice.

- **Get tested:** If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a free PCR test to check if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119. They should remain at home at least until the result is known. If the result is negative and your child is not unwell, the child can end self-isolation and return to school; if the result is positive, the child should isolate at home and follow the guidance below.

- **Self isolate: If your child has a positive LFT or PCR test, they should self isolate (stay at home).** They should self isolate for 10 days (unless they have two negative tests at Day 5 and Day 6 and no fever, which will enable early release from self-isolation - see below for further details)
- If the child has a positive test result (via PCR or LFD test) but does not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken (unless they have two negative tests at Day 5 and Day 6 and no fever, which will enable early release from self-isolation - see below for further details). This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.
- **Symptoms but cannot test:** If your child has COVID-19 symptoms, but is unable to do a test, we would ask that you do not bring your child to school and they self isolate for 10 days.
- **Financial help may be available:** You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

### **How long should someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 stay at home and self isolate?**

- If someone tests positive for COVID-19, they should self isolate for 10 days unless the criteria below is met to allow for a shorter self isolation period. As per latest guidance, the self-isolation period can be ended earlier **as long as certain conditions are met** (please see explanatory table below). For instance, you can take an LFD test on Day 5 and Day 6 after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken **if you did not have symptoms**), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If **both these test results are negative**, and you **do not have a high temperature**, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result on Day 6.
- You should **not** take an LFD test before the fifth day (Day 5) of your isolation period, and you should only end your self-isolation after you have had **2 consecutive negative** LFD tests which should be taken at least **24 hours** apart.
- If you cannot do tests on Day 5 and Day 6, you must self isolate for the full 10 days.
- Please report your COVID-19 test results through this link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

This guidance (see online link by clicking [here](#)) also applies to children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting.

Day 0	When you <a href="#">develop symptoms</a> or get a positive test. Stay at home
Day 1	Stay at home
Day 2	Stay at home
Day 3	Stay at home
Day 4	Stay at home
Day 5	Stay at home. Take the First lateral flow test.
Day 6	Stay at home. Take the Second lateral flow test.  If both Day 5 & 6 are Negative you can leave self-isolation – provided you <b>do not</b> have COVID symptoms at this point.  If you have symptoms, stay at home until Day 10. Continue to stay at home if you have a fever.

### What should you do if your child is a ‘contact’ of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

- A contact is someone who has been close to or spent a certain amount of time near someone who is infectious for COVID-19.
- **NHS Test and Trace** will get in touch with anyone who is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and will provide isolation and testing advice. The school may also let you know that your child is a ‘contact’
- Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.
- Children under 18 years and 6 months who are ‘contacts’ and who do not have symptoms or a positive test result do not need to self isolate but should do daily lateral flow testing, if possible, for 7 days.
- If your child is a ‘contact’ and the school (or NHS Test and Trace) asks you to do daily Lateral Flow tests, please do this testing if possible, so that we can try to find any further cases in the school and help stop the spread of COVID-19.
- More information about actions for contacts is here: [Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [Guidance for contacts of people confirmed coronavirus\(covid-19\) who do not live with the person - GOV.UK](#)



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### **Do you need help with shopping, medicine delivery or financial support if someone in your household needs to self isolate?**

- Help is available for people in Kingston who have tested positive for COVID-19. Local Kingston support is available to anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or has been told to self isolate, to help with access to food and medicine deliveries, financial assistance if eligible, and support with health and wellbeing. This help can be accessed by visiting [www.kingston.gov.uk/Covid19-needhelp](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/Covid19-needhelp) or calling 020 8547 5000.

### **How can you help stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading?**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – we encourage everyone aged 12 years and over to get vaccinated. For more information see our [Kingston Covid-19 vaccination web pages](#).
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are providing the following advice. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

As you are aware, things are changing rapidly, please familiarise yourselves with the latest government guidance and further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>



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### **What the school are doing to help stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading:**

The school currently has the following measures in place to help keep the school community stay as safe as possible:

- Masks/face coverings are worn by all staff (unless exempt) in all communal areas in school.
- Masks are worn in the car park at start and end of day.
- Staff are cleaning classrooms with a focus on high touch points for example door handles and desks etc. Steamers are used daily for cleaning items such as plastic toys.
- Twice weekly lateral flow testing for staff, if identified as a close contact daily LFT testing for 7 days. (See below for an update on this)
- Staff are maintaining good hand hygiene. (hand washing at regular points throughout the day)
- Classrooms are ventilated where possible.
- There are CO2 monitors in rooms to support dynamic ventilation assessments.
- Test and Trace is continuing in school, despite this no longer being a school duty.

### **In addition to the above measures we have introduced the following measures:**

- All staff are requested to take part in daily lateral flow testing until further notice.
- We have relocated staff rest areas over lunchtime period in order to support social distancing further.
- All mixed group sessions such as NEST and therapy sessions will be suspended until further notice other than activities between class pairs.
- All off site visits are cancelled until further notice.
- Visitors to school will be kept to a minimum and will be required to complete an LFT test before coming onto sit alongside wearing a mask at all times.
- Apollo 1 & 2 will not attend main site for any activities until further notice.
- Additional cleaning measures have been introduced across the school day.

### **How you can further support the Dysart Community:**

- We are asking families to test their children daily with a LFD if possible, we will send a pack of tests home in their bag tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kindest regards

Leigh Edser  
Principal