

25th February 2022

Dear families

I am writing to you following the Government's announcement of 21st February 2022 on '[Living With Covid-19](#)', and the resulting changes at Dysart School.

The school will continue to follow the latest guidelines set out by the Department of Education for SEND and specialist settings. If you would like to read the full guidance it can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

Testing for staff and students

It is recommended staff and pupils in specialist SEND settings continue asymptomatic testing twice a week and so we are asking school staff to continue to test on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. As before, we will not be testing students on site but, where available, we will be happy to provide test kits and offer some support to parents if you would like to test your child at home. Testing kits will also continue to be available online and from pharmacies via the following link until 1st April. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If you or your child tests positive for COVID-19

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.

You can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.

You should:

- not attend school / work
- ask friends, family, neighbours or volunteers to get food and other essentials for you
- not invite social visitors into your home, including friends and family
- postpone all non-essential services and repairs that require a home visit
- cancel routine medical and dental appointments. If you are concerned about your health or you have been asked to attend an appointment in person during this time, discuss this with your medical contact and let them know about your symptoms or your test result
- if you can, let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result so that they can follow this guidance

Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.





Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation

Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February. Contacts, including those who are not vaccinated, are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. We will continue to trace contacts within the school and families will be notified so that you are able to make a decision on whether your child remains in school. Staff who receive notification of close contact will not be required to isolate.

Reporting Cases to School

We would ask you to still inform school at the earliest possible opportunity if a member of your household has symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19 in the same way you would for absence reporting, even if your child is not absent from school; this will support school to protect vulnerable students and staff, treat your child with the upmost sensitivity and support our nursing team.

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all students of compulsory school age. At Dysart, we will continue to ensure our priority is for as many students as possible to regularly attend school. There may still be occasions where students are required to stay at home having tested positive for Covid-19 and this will continue to be reflected accordingly in our registration.

Nursing Team

Please contact our nursing team if you have any questions or need to update them on your child's medical situation; this will ensure they are aware of any specific vulnerabilities Covid may post to your child's health.

0208 390 5846

Nurse-dysart@dysartschool.org

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer mandatory in England and wearing a mask in communal areas will be personal choice. The use of face coverings will be reinstated if we have an increase in cases in the school.

Control Measures

The school will continue with the following measures to help keep the school community stay as safe as possible:

- 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.
- 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.

We will continue to:

- ensure good hygiene for everyone
- maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.





We want to reassure you that we will continue to monitor and risk assess the Covid situation and will update of any changes as and when they occur.

As previously, should there be an increase in infection rates in our school, we may need to reinstate some protective measures in line with our risk assessment.

Thank you for all your continued support as we continue to take measures to keep our community safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leigh Edser".

Leigh Edser
Principal