

FAQS IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES TO COVID REGULATIONS 24 FEBRUARY 2022

1. If my child has symptoms or a positive test result do they still need to self-isolate?

Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive. People who have tested positive will be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting.

From Thursday 24 February, the government will remove the *legal* requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, as a College we still have a responsibility to maintain health and safety within the environment and reduce the risk of transmission.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.

2. What happens if someone who tests positive, comes into College?

If we have reason to believe someone has Covid symptoms or has tested positive for Covid they will be asked to remain at home until a negative test result is received. This is for the reasons stated above and is within the government guidance as it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.

3. What happens for a close contact of someone who has tested positive?

Under the guidance fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate. You may of course wish to test to check for your own personal wellbeing (details of securing tests will be given later in this document).

4. Do we still need to wear masks/face coverings?

Face coverings are no longer advised by the government for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. However, anyone who wishes to wear one is able to do so, this would be encouraged by the College up until 1 April (the end of Term 4).

Staff and pupils should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school. This would mean they are encouraged to continue wearing the face coverings on school transport in this time period.

5. Do we still need to do twice weekly testing?

The government has removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

For a small group of staff and students testing is still recommended by the government guidelines if this applies to your child we will contact you separately by email.

6. How do we get hold of the testing kits if we want them?

All staff and students will continue to be able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or online. Whilst we have stocks available in College we will continue to provide to those who want them.

Staff and pupils who test positive should use any test kits they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to school or college if they test negative.

If they have run out, they should order additional test kits online via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or if we have supplies and an appropriate route to do so, such as through a sibling or parent/guardian or in the post, we will support if we are able.

7. If my child is self-isolating due to Covid will they still get remote education?

The regulations requiring education settings to provide remote learning to pupils isolating for Covid-related reasons lapse on 24 March. Our understanding, therefore, is that schools and colleges are only legally required to continue to provide remote learning in these circumstances until that date. Our staff will always seek to work with you to ensure that any absence missed due to illness of any kind does not unduly disadvantage them and strategies for catching up will be planned and agreed with all parties.