

1st March 2022

Dear Parent(s)//Carer(s),

I hope you and your families have had some enjoyable moments over half term, despite the worrying international events. As you know, we were closed on the Friday prior to half-term due to Storm Eunice and the Premises Team has worked hard to clear up any debris and make repairs where necessary. As had been indicated, the Prime Minister launched the "Living with Covid" plan last week and there have been significant changes to regulations and processes. Please find below an update on COVID regulations and how they affect Haybrook College:

Asymptomatic Testing

From Monday 21 February, the Government announced that staff and students in Specialist Schools and Alternative Provision settings should continue to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing using LFT's. LFT's can be obtained via your local pharmacy or the school. If positive, the advice is to isolate for a minimum of 5 days. until you have 2 negative LFT tests 24 hours apart or for 10 days if still positive.

Isolation Rules

From Thursday 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

Other Changes

In addition, the Government:

- Is no longer asking fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and has removed the legal requirement for close contacts who are *not* fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- Has ended self-isolation support payments
- Has ended routine contact tracing. Contacts are no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual.

On-going safety measures

We have decided to continue with the following measures:

- Enhanced cleaning regimes in high-volume circulation areas
- Good ventilation in all buildings.
- Recommending the use of face-coverings in corridors and communal areas for staff and students.
- Encouraging students to wear face-coverings on school and public buses in line with Government guidance.
- Students must comply with the instructions of the Home to school transport team.

These measures will be kept under continuous review as we monitor case rates in school and the wider community.

We will continue to work to minimise the risk of transmission within the school and request your continued support in these efforts. Please use Lateral Flow Tests if your child displays Covid symptoms and do not send them to school if they test positive, or if they are suffering from symptoms. We have a small stock of Lateral Flow Tests and will be applying for some more. We are planning to issue the remaining stock on request to support families where a child has symptoms or has tested positive. Please contact the relevant centre to request a pack of tests when you need them. We will let you know when our stock is about to run out.

If your child does test positive, please keep them off school for a minimum of 5 days and send them back once they have completed 2 negative Lateral Flow Tests (24 hours apart), or after 10 days, whichever is the sooner.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Rockman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jamie Rockman
Executive Headteacher