

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

I wanted to give you an update on the Government's current 'Living with Covid' plan.

As you may have seen, widely reported in the press, the country is expected to move forward to the next phase in the Covid strategy. This means that from today, 1st April, it is:

- No longer recommended that regular twice weekly testing is takes place
- LFT tests will no longer be provided free but can be bought at a local pharmacy
- There is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate but the advice is to remain at home if unwell
- There is no longer a need for two negative tests to return to school

I must be clear that the pandemic is not over and these actions by the Government are being taken at a time when Covid infection rates nationally, locally and within our school community are increasing. Currently we have a number of staff and pupil across different sites that have tested positive for Covid. This has resulted in us taking measures to prevent further spread of the virus, such as closing classes.

From today we will be following the Government guidance set out below:

- 1) Any child or young person that is unwell and has a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with people where they can. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.
- 2) Any child or young person that tests positive for Covid should remain at home and minimise contact with other people for a minimum of 3 days or until their temperature has returned to normal.
- 3) Any adult with symptoms of a respiratory illness and have a high temperature and feel unwell should remain at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities.
- 4) Any adult that tests positive for Covid should remain at home and minimise contact with people for a minimum of 5 days or until their temperature returns to normal.

I appreciate that adhering to the above may cause some inconvenience but it is essential that we continue to be careful and minimise the risk of transition within the school community to ensure that the education of our young people can continue.

Although we do not expect any school closures we will need to monitor the situation very carefully and take action if required to continue to keep everyone safe. Our plan over the next few months will be to:

1. Isolate any individual cases immediately to minimise the risk of transition
2. Close a class if the infections rates are high within that group.
3. Close a year group of cases continue to rise in that group
4. Close a section of the school known as a key stage if infections rates are very high
5. And finally as a last resort, close a centre if the infection numbers are very high.

We will take every practical step to ensure that we remain open to as many young people as we possibly can and closure will only be considered once every possible alternative has been explored.

Thank for your continued support in this ever changing landscape.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Rockman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jamie Rockman

Executive Headteacher