

28th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Advice to All Parents: COVID-19 Update

I hope you have had an enjoyable half-term. Following the Government's announcement that all remaining legal COVID-19 restrictions would end from Thursday 24th February, I am writing to clarify the situation in schools as we return for the remainder of the spring term.

We continue to receive regular updates from Public Health Dorset on how changes to advice should be implemented in schools and educational settings. **It remains good practice for pupils and staff to test on their return to school in order to identify asymptomatic cases. It is also expected that pupils and staff with symptoms should test and isolate based on the result.**

- **Anyone who is symptomatic or tests positive must continue to stay at home.**

Self-isolation

Although there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test, the [public health advice](#) remains the same – **anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has a positive test result should stay at home and avoid contact with other people to avoid spreading the virus to others.** The updated advice includes specific guidance for education settings, which remains as it was prior to the half-term break:

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

Isolation Periods:

- The first LFD test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day.
- If your child has a negative LFD on day 5 and day 6 (with the tests being administered 24 hours apart), then they can return to school on day 6.
- If your child is positive on day 5, then a negative test is required on two subsequent consecutive days in order for them to be released from isolation.
- If your child continues to test positive, then they should isolate for the full 10-day period before returning to school.

Becoming the best we can be

Close contacts

- Close contacts of confirmed cases are no longer advised to take daily lateral flow tests, but they should take steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. They should pay close attention to the [main symptoms of COVID-19](#). If they develop any of these symptoms, they should [order a PCR test](#). They are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people whilst waiting for their test result.
- Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19, should continue to attend the setting as normal

Testing

- The Government no longer recommends twice-weekly asymptomatic testing in mainstream education and childcare settings.
- At present, anyone with symptoms should continue to get a free PCR test and lateral flow tests can still be used for asymptomatic testing.
- The Government has announced that free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing will end on 1 April. We await further updates on this.

We ask that you remain vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 and keep your child at home if they start to feel unwell. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Vaccination

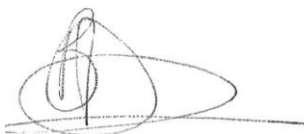
COVID-19 vaccinations for 12+ year olds can be [booked online](#) or by calling 119. Some walk-ins are also available and you can find details on the [NHS Dorset CCG website](#).

The Government has also announced that vaccinations will be offered for 5–11 year olds. The NHS is working through plans to roll this out locally and we will provide more information when we have it.

Conflict in Ukraine

St Peter's is a multi-national community and we feel it likely that the conflict in Ukraine could be having an impact on a number of our students. If you feel your child would benefit from support from the school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's year leader.

Yours faithfully



Ben Doyle
Headteacher