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COVID update

As I am sure you are aware, the guidance has changed again. [This link](#) is very comprehensive and is the guidance that we are following in school from today.

My child has tested positive for COVID-19 – how long do they have to stay away from school/college for?

All people – including pupils parents and teachers - have to isolate for a minimum of five full days after the day of a positive test before then going back to school if they have tested negative twice.

The first full day of isolation is considered to be the day following the positive test. Following the fifth full day of isolation – on the sixth day - it will be possible for people who have received two negative LFD tests on consecutive days to go back to school.

People who have tested positive can now take two LFD tests on day 5 and day 6, and if both are negative and they do not have a temperature, they can end their self-isolation on day 6 and return to their education setting immediately.

If either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest

In practice it means that if a child or teacher tests positive on a Saturday, that would be considered day 0. They could then take tests on the morning of Thursday (day 5) and Friday (day 6). If they tested negative on both days and did not have a temperature they would be then able to return to school on the Friday.

What about if someone else in the house has tested positive? Can my child go to school/college?

Yes – and they should. They should continue going to school but test daily. If they test positive, they should isolate.

Attendance and requesting school work

I know many parents are choosing to keep siblings off if there is a case of COVID in the family. Whilst we understand the rationale behind this decision, it is no longer the government's guidance, as above, and we are therefore unable to authorise these precautionary absences. We are also not obliged to set work for children if parents chose to keep them off as a precaution.

I know some staff are being very obliging in providing work for siblings but we are only required to set work, if a child absent with COVID is well enough to work, and parents request something.

Please be understanding if teachers are unable to accommodate requests beyond their statutory duty. We are facing staff shortages too and all staff are being asked to do more and more to keep things as normal as possible for the children that attend. Your understanding is very much appreciated.

Notifying you of cases

We will no longer be sending out letters to parents every time we receive notification of a positive case in school. Please support us by doing regular lateral Flow Tests and advising the school of any positive cases as soon as possible.

We are very grateful for your support and understanding. I will keep you updated of any changes in our guidance or circumstances.

Many Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Hawes', written in a cursive style.

Miss Stephanie Hawes
Headteacher