



8 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

We wanted to provide you with an update about the positive COVID cases that we have had at school this term and to provide information about our procedures. We realise that this may be concerning for you so I wanted to outline the extra COVID measures that we have now put in place whilst we continue with our daily routines and curriculum.

How many positive cases have we had at school this term?

We have had 9 positive PCR and 4 positive lateral flow tests. This includes both staff and students.

How do we inform parents?

As soon as we have been notified about a positive case we phone the parents/carers of all of the children in those classes. We have also notified the parents of those that they share transport with.

What action do we advise parents of contacts to take?

If suitable for your son/daughter we suggest that you book a PCR test. If your son/daughter is in Oaks they could also take a lateral flow test.

Can my child return to school if they go for a PCR test?

Yes they can attend school as normal, they do not need to wait for the results unless they have any symptoms themselves. Children under 18 and 6 months do not need to isolate even if they have been a contact of a positive case.

Are our staff isolating?

Staff who test positive will be isolating for 10 days. Staff who are contact of a positive case and double vaccinated do not need to isolate. All staff contacts are sent for a PCR test and will carry out lateral flow tests for 10 days.

What extra measures have we put in place?

- Staff are wearing face masks in communal areas and for close contact.
- Dinners are now taken in classrooms
- Limited mixing at playtimes
- No large face to face gatherings, including assemblies and training.

What to do if your child is unwell with symptoms?

If your child will accept a PCR test then the advice is to book one. If this is not possible then ring us at school and let us know. Please help us by keeping your child at home if they are unwell with any COVID symptoms.



Should my child be taking lateral flow tests weekly?

If they are in Oaks then yes, please support your son/daughter to do a test twice weekly if they are able to. We have tests at school that we can send home for you, let us know via the diary. We do understand that for some of our students this is not possible.

How can I contact the office at school when the office is closed?

Please use the parentsupport@forestway.leics.sch.uk email for evening or weekend contact about COVID cases.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England.

If you would like to discuss anything further please ring us at school in office hours or use the email above.

Best wishes



Gail Seaton
Headteacher

Advice and Information from Public Health England

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result)

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be required to self-isolate as household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please read the [stay at home guidance](#) which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school/college/childcare/education setting or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in [regular LFD testing](#)

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now and 16-17 year olds are being offered 1 dose of the vaccination by 23 August
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>