

Friday 9 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the [Prime Minister's statement at the coronavirus press conference earlier this week](#), and further to the statement to Parliament from the Secretary of State for Education that '[Covid restrictions in education settings will end at Step 4](#),' we are writing to provide you with an update on what this means for our students from 19 July — should these plans go ahead (final confirmation of these plans will be given by the Government on 12 July).

The Department for Education (DfE) have updated their [operational guidance for schools](#), to come into effect from Monday 19 July 2021, in line with the wider removal of COVID-19 restrictions throughout the country from that same date. As our last day of the summer term is 23 July, and in line with DfE guidance, please note that we will be maintaining all the control measures we currently have in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 during that last week of term, and, indeed, to minimise the risk for any disruption to the start of the summer period for families. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff remains paramount. As such, we will be continuing to ensure good hygiene for everyone (e.g., hand sanitising on entry to and exit from rooms, desk cleaning, etc.), maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated, and continuing to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19. We will also expect students and staff to continue to wear face coverings until the end of term inside our buildings, and on school transport.

Changes from 19 July

From Monday 19 July schools will no longer be responsible for contact-tracing. Whilst you should still of course inform us if your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), from this date any contacts in school will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. Moreover, from Monday 19 July the absence of any student required to self-isolate will continue not counting as an absence (either authorised or unauthorised) for statistical purposes, but schools must now record the absence of a student who is unable to attend because they are confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 as an authorised absence because of illness.

Changes after the end of the summer term

The 'bubble' system will cease, i.e., it will no longer be necessary to keep children in bubbles. This means that if your child will be taking part in any summer provision, such as summer schools or activity camps, they will not be kept in 'bubbles'. This also means that there will no longer be a 'bubble' system when we return to school in September for the start of the new academic year, as things currently stand.

From Monday 16 August, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be advised by NHS Test and Trace to take a PCR test. Children will only need to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive COVID-19 test result.

From the start of the Autumn Term, face coverings will no longer be required to be worn by students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or communal areas.

Asymptomatic coronavirus testing

Over the summer period, secondary students are only required to continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as summer schools and out of school activities based in school settings. (Note that there is no need for pupils currently in Y6 transitioning from primary to secondary school to test over the summer period, even if they are attending settings during this time.)

On return to school in September, all our students will take 2 lateral flow device tests in school, 3-5 days apart, at our Asymptomatic Testing Site, which will be reinstated as per the arrangements implemented on our return to school from the national lockdown in March 2021. Students will then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this requirement will be reviewed by HM Government.

The DfE and NHS expect that the reinstatement of Asymptomatic Testing on-site will require a phased return in the first week of term to manage the numbers passing through the test site at any one time. We are currently finalising arrangements for the on-site testing of students in September and will confirm such with you in a further communication before the end of the term.

Whereas there will be changes as part of the easing of restrictions, as a school we will have outbreak management plans in place to ensure we are prepared to continue to operate if there is transmission of the virus in our school or the local community. These plans will cover the possibility that it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' and/or other measures temporarily, but we should stress that any safety controls in place will be continually reviewed in accordance with HM Government and local guidance.

We thank you in advance very much again for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information in the meantime. As ever, keep safe, and keep looking after yourself and each other.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins. The signature on the left is 'Craig Griffiths' and the signature on the right is 'Rebecca Mullins'.

Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins
(Associate Principals).



Important

Advice for schools

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN

A CHILD WHO DEVELOPS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A POTENTIAL CORONAVIRUS CASE:



NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if the child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)



FEVER (TEMPERATURE OF 37.8°C OR HIGHER)

The child will also feel hot to touch on their chest or back



A LOSS OR CHANGE TO SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

this means the child has noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

MOST CHILDREN WITH CORONAVIRUS HAVE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SYMPTOMS.



If a child is unwell with one or more of these specific symptoms they should be told not to come into school or sent home as soon as possible and advised to get a coronavirus test. **ONLY** those children with one or more of these symptoms or those advised by their clinician or Local Authority should get a test.



Children reporting other symptoms such as a headache, sore throat, runny or sniffly nose, earache, itchy eyes, lethargy or tiredness **WITHOUT** a fever should **NOT** be treated as potential coronavirus cases or advised to take a test.















If the national guidance on symptoms of coronavirus in children changes, updated information will be provided at a local level as soon as possible. This information about coronavirus symptoms in children can be shared with all school teaching and administration staff as well as parents and carers where necessary.

For further guidance on coronavirus testing for schools, please read the letter from PHE and NHS Test and Trace to school and college leaders at: bit.ly/phe-schools

COVID-19: Restrictions in England

From 17 May

STEP 3

MEETING OTHERS  <p>You can meet outdoors in groups of up to 30 people. You can meet indoors in groups of up to six people or two households.</p> <p>You don't have to stay 2m apart from friends and family, but consider the risks to you and those you are with.</p>	OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>Domestic overnight stays are allowed, in groups of up to six people or 2 households.</p>	EDUCATION  <p>Schools, colleges and universities fully open.</p> <p>Regular testing provided.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>You should continue to work from home if you can.</p>
RETAIL AND PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Open.</p> <p>Groups of up to six people or two households allowed indoors.</p> <p>Groups of up to 30 allowed outdoors.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>All holiday accommodation open, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs.</p>	LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES  <p>Open indoors and outdoors, including gyms, indoor sports facilities, swimming pools, saunas and steam rooms.</p> <p>Organised sport and group exercises allowed.</p>
ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Open indoors and outdoors, including cinemas, bowling alleys, zoos and theme parks.</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Events, including live performances, business events and sporting events can proceed with capacity limits, indoors and outdoors.</p>	DOMESTIC TRAVEL  <p>Travel safely. Plan ahead and avoid the busiest times and routes if you can.</p>	OVERSEAS TRAVEL  <p>Check whether your destination is on the red, amber or green list. You should not travel to red and amber countries. If you are travelling to a green country, check the rules in your destination as testing or quarantine requirements may be in place.</p>
PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open. You can attend in groups of 6 people or 2 households.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>Weddings, receptions, life events and wakes can take place with up to 30 attendees, indoors in a COVID-Secure venue, or outdoors.</p> <p>No limit on funeral attendees, subject to how many the venue can safely accommodate with social distancing.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>People who live in a care home can have 'low risk' visits out of the home without the need to isolate when they get back. Residents can also name up to five visitors.</p>	SHIELDING  <p>If you are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) you do not need to shield, but should continue to take extra precautions such as shopping at quieter times of the day. You can follow the same advice on meeting friends and family as everyone else.</p>

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus

COVID-19
Let's take this next step, safely.

