

Saturday 26th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a great half term and you were not affected by the strong winds too badly. I am looking forward to seeing everyone bright and early on Monday morning.

I wanted to write to you to explain the School's Guidance on Covid which was released by the Government a couple of days ago. I have put together a table explaining the main guidance for England and more specifically for us which I hope you find useful. I have also provided you with a copy of a joint letter from Sarah Daly, Director of Children, Families and Education Portsmouth City Council and Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health Portsmouth City Council explaining school guidance.

The key headlines are as follows:

- If your child has COVID symptoms, you should still keep them at home and book a PCR
- If your child develops COVID symptoms at school, we will ask you to pick them up and book a PCR test.
- Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 LFT negative test results on consecutive days 24 hours apart.
- From April 1st, you will not be able to order free LFT. I encourage you to all order additional LFT kits online here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Other reminders

YEAR 5 and 6 - These year groups will no longer be using the end drive at the start of the day. Only year 5 and 6 children (no parents) will be able to wait in the cage playground from 8.35am if they wish to do so. Classroom doors will still open at 8.45am as usual. At the end of the day they will use the end drive to leave.

WORLD BOOK DAY – Thursday 3rd March. Looking forward to seeing all of your book costumes.

PARENT MEETINGS – These will be held week starting 7th March. Look out for a letter about this.

INSET Days – Our two remaining Inset days of the year are on 21st March and 1st July

RED NOSE DAY AND RAINBOW DAY – We are going to be combining Red Nose Day and Rainbow Day this year. Rainbow day will be based around Inclusion and is held on National Down Syndrome Day. We will still be doing fun activities on 18th March (Red Nose day) but the dressing up day/cake sales for Rainbow Day will be on 22nd March. More information to follow.

Date	School Specific Guidelines	Government guidelines in England
From 21 st February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff will no longer be asked to test twice a week (a vast majority will still do so by ordering LFTs online) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing
From 24 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child has one of the 3 main symptoms of COVID, do not send them to school. Please book a PCR test as soon as possible. • If a child develops COVID symptoms whilst they are at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect and book a PCR test. • Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 LFD negative test results on consecutive days 24 hours apart. • If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID, we will take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID • If your child has tested positive for COVID, we will provide remote learning as long as they well enough • We will continue with our control measures i.e. good hygiene; appropriate cleaning; ventilation; and following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test will end. People are advised to stay home, and can use a LFD after five days if they choose. • Fully vaccinated close contacts and under 18s will no longer need to test daily for seven days. • Close contacts who are unvaccinated won't need to self-isolate • Self-isolation payments will stop. • Medicine delivery service will no longer be available. • Local authorities lose additional COVID-related health protection measures. • 'Routine' contact tracing will end. • COVID pass will no longer be required. • End legal obligation to tell your employer if you're required to self-isolate.
From 24 th March	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory sick pay / ESA COVID-related payments will end (people might still be eligible for SSP in some circumstances).
From 1 st April	School guidance not out yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free access to testing will end - there will be targeted access for certain groups (eligibility to be confirmed in coming days). • New guidance will be issued outlining what people need to do when they have COVID. • Government will remove guidance to explicitly consider COVID-19 in risk assessments.

To Parents and Carers of pupils
attending Portsmouth Schools

**Children, Families and
Education**
Director: Sarah Daly

Core 5, Floor 2
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2EA

Dear Parent/Carer

UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

On Monday 21 February, the government confirmed that all remaining domestic COVID-19 restrictions will be removed. This will mean changes for children attending school and college, which are summarised below.

Testing

Although regular testing of staff and students is no longer recommended, staff in education and childcare settings and students can still access test kits by ordering them online, from the local asymptomatic testing site at the Sommerstown Hub, or through your pharmacy. You can find information about testing in Portsmouth on our [website](#).

Regular testing is still advised for specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings, alternative provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools or the equivalent in colleges.

Schools, nurseries and colleges may be advised by local public health professionals to recommend lateral flow device (LFD) tests to manage an outbreak.

Self-isolation

From 24 February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. The government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for seven days, and routine contact tracing will end.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative LFD test results on consecutive days, 24 hours apart.

Staff, children and young people who are contacts should attend school, college or nursery as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, or you suspect they have it

If a child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

If your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms, [order a PCR test](#) and stay at home while waiting for the result.

If your child tests positive, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative LFD test results on consecutive days, 24 hours apart.

As you will know, rates of Covid-19 in England and nationally have been dropping in recent weeks from the extremely high levels we saw in January. The government announced last week a number of changes which will affect you and your family.

Yours Sincerely



Sarah Daly-
Director of Children, Families and Education
Portsmouth City Council



Helen Atkinson FFPH
Director of Public Health
Portsmouth City Council