

20 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the latest on Covid-19 precautions, and to provide a reminder of the actions to take should your child have Covid.

### **If your child develops Covid symptoms**

If your child develops Covid symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell) they should go for a PCR test. You can request a free PCR test here: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

### **If your child receives a positive LFD or PCR result**

If your child receives a positive PCR result or a positive lateral flow test result (whether they have symptoms or not) they must isolate.

The Government have reduced the time people must self-isolate. People who are self-isolating can stop after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.

- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.
- If the result of either of their tests 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.
- All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

The latest guidance on what action to take can be found at: [When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

### **Face coverings – Secondary only**

The Government have announced that from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January it is no longer recommending that secondary students and staff wear a face covering in classrooms, and that from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> it is no longer recommending that face coverings are worn in communal areas.

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At every Oasis academy, student and staff safety is the priority. We have many precautions in place at our school and the option to wear a face covering continues to play an important part in reducing transmission.

We therefore continue to encourage all staff and secondary students (who are not medically exempt) to wear a face covering in classrooms and communal areas as they help reduce the risk for everyone. We do however recognise that this is now a personal choice. Please remember that wearing a face covering in communal areas is still mandatory until Thursday 27th.

Whilst the option to wear a face covering in classrooms is now a personal choice, we reserve the right to mandate their usage where necessary (as a result of a local outbreak) and in line with our hierarchy of controls.

### **How to keep your family and others safe**

Below is the [NHS's advice to keep everyone as safe as possible](#).

- get vaccinated against COVID-19 – everyone aged 12 and over can [book vaccination appointments](#) now. Please note that the vaccine booster is now available for all those aged 16 and over.
- meet people outside if possible
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- limit the number of people you meet and avoid crowded places
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day

All the latest information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. Please remember that if your child is not well, that they should not come to school.

Thank you for your continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

S McLoughlin

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