

01 March 2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are well and had a chance to enjoy some time off during the recent half-term holiday. I am writing to you about the latest advice on COVID-19.

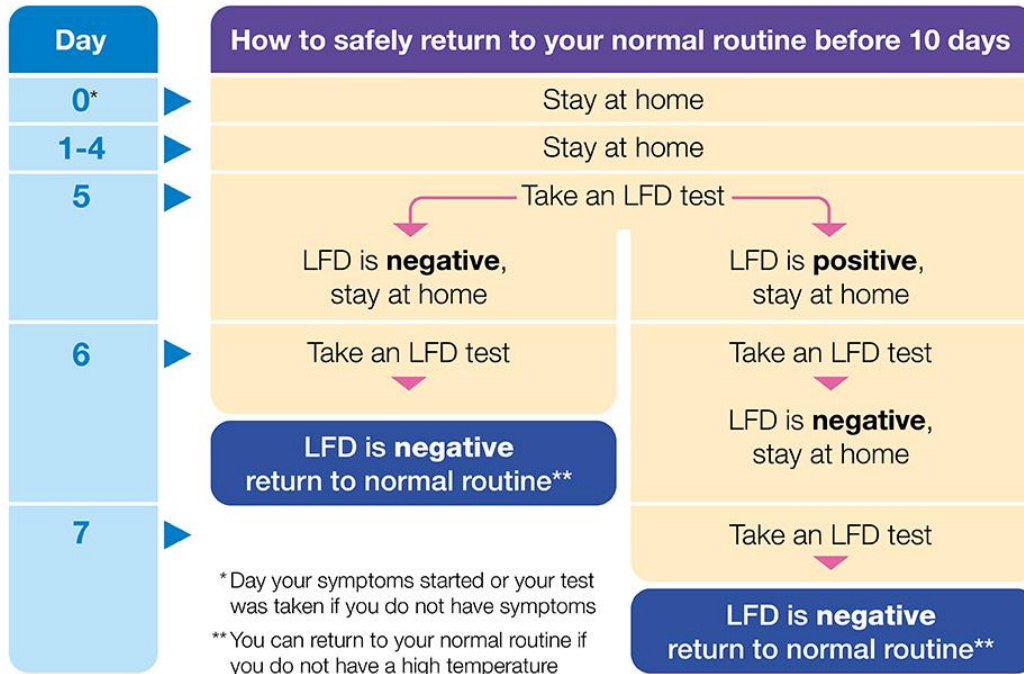
The Government are changing the rules around COVID as they would like everyone to begin to treat COVID like other infectious diseases. You can read the latest advice online at gov.uk or by clicking the links below:

- [Testing for COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [What to do if you or a close contact has COVID](#)

What do I do if my child has COVID symptoms?

If your child has COVID symptoms, they must isolate at home and request a PCR test. Should it be confirmed they have COVID, they should isolate for 10 days.

They may choose to take lateral flow test from 5 days after symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another lateral flow test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and they feel well enough and do not have a high temperature, they can safely return to school.



Principal – Sara McLoughlin
 Pelham Road, Immingham DN40 1JU
 Tel: 01469 576599
www.oasisacademyimmingham.org

What do I do if my child is a close contact of someone with COVID symptoms?

If a pupil lives with, or has stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID, they can now continue to attend school as normal. Should they develop symptoms of COVID they must stay at home and request a PCR test.

What about face coverings?

As previously explained, face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. However, it is important to us that everyone feels comfortable in school, and so if students or staff wish to continue to wear a face covering they may do so.

What about testing?

The Government has now ended nationwide testing for those without symptoms (either in the academy, or twice weekly at home). We recognise that this is a helpful precaution and encourage students and staff who would like to continue to do so, however we are no longer able to provide tests for this purpose going forward.

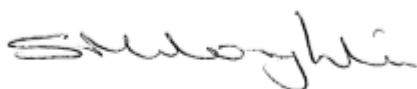
What precautions remain in place?

The precautions we have in place around risk assessments, good hygiene (hand washing, disposing of tissues correctly), thorough cleaning, and keeping spaces well ventilated will remain. We will continue to assess the risk in the academy and locally, and we will not hesitate to increase precautions if this is required.

It of course remains important for everyone to be aware of how they are feeling and to not come to school should they have symptoms, or if they are not well enough. To support with this, we will continue to ask students how they are as they arrive. Senior Leaders can take the decision to contact home and raise concerns about a student's health with parents and carers if they are displaying symptoms.

Thank you for your ongoing support during COVID as we reduce the risk for everyone whilst striving to keep the academy open for the children.

Yours sincerely,



Principal
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