



Current QEII School COVID Safety Measures – March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify the COVID safety rules, which we are currently operating under.

There were three main updates, on 24th February, when 'Living with COVID' was published by the government.

1. Close contacts can attend school without taking daily tests.
2. Staff and secondary pupils in special schools should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. There is no need for primary age pupils to test. Testing is voluntary.
3. When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms (or has a positive test) pupils, staff and other adults should follow the government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have 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.

Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.

If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results.

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

IF SOMEONE GETS COVID

If, when they are at school, a child has a high temperature (over 37.8 degrees C), a new persistent cough or loss of smell or taste then school will ring parents – to come and collect their child. Advice still is that parents/carers should arrange a PCR test for their child.

If a child has the main symptoms at home, again the advice still is that parents should arrange a PCR test for their child. If that is positive, they should isolate.

The guidance is now that, if a child feels well on Day 5 (the first day of symptoms / positive test is day ZERO), they take a lateral flow test. If that's negative, they take a second LFT 24 hours later. If both are negative, and the child continues to feel well, they can return to school on Day 6.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Elphick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Helen Elphick