



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

Government announcement on ending legal restrictions

Dear parents/carers,

On Monday, many of you will have seen Mr Johnson's announcement on ending all legal coronavirus restrictions.

The new guidance from the Department for Education has only been updated this morning telling us how to respond to members of our school community with symptoms which has delayed this letter to you.

The announcement does not mean the virus has gone away and the two scientific advisors were quick to remind people that they should still act cautiously while rates of infection remain so high. Indeed, we have staff and pupils still off poorly with Coronavirus as I write this letter to you.

To minimise further disruption to your child's education, we are still planning to take some measures to try and limit the number of children and adults in school catching Coronavirus and becoming ill. It is still a real struggle to get supply teachers to cover classes when staff are absent, so anything we can do to minimise this will be really helpful for your child's education for the next few weeks or months.

School measures

While face coverings are no longer required in the guidance, I would like to ask you all to keep wearing them, especially if you need to get close to school staff to speak to them. You are helping keep our children, yourself and your fellow parents safe by doing this and again school is so thankful for your consideration of others.

I will still be asking staff to wear face masks in common areas and when out on the gates to reduce them catching the virus and being off work, further disrupting your child's education.

We will be keeping the staggered timings of the day for the rest of this year and will review this before the new year starts in September 2022. Also changing this part-way through a year would be very disruptive to children in school.

We will also not be having whole school gatherings such as assemblies at present so we don't have all the children together in the hall which could easily spread the virus amongst them.

We will be continuing to have more frequent and thorough cleaning of the school site, especially common areas such as the toilets, and also using CO2 monitors to help ensure all classroom spaces are well ventilated to minimise the chances of passing infections within the school.

School are now asked to follow the guidance from the UK Health Security Agency entitled, '[People with Covid 19 and their contacts](#)'. While this states that no one now legally needs to isolate, the guidance is as follows,

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.

Like with many childhood diseases, if your child is ill at school with Covid symptoms, we will call you and ask you to collect them. Until April, we will recommend that you order a PCR test in line with the guidance above.

Parents following our guidance and not sending children in when they have symptoms or there has been a confirmed case in their household have helped make sure that children who have gone on to test positive have not been in school to infect other children or staff in those days before they got their test result or started to develop symptoms.

Thank you to all of you that have continually helped us minimise the impact of this pandemic on our school. Thanks to all the measures we have seen much lower case numbers than many other schools and hopefully a few weeks or months more of these minimal measures will help to ensure that we don't throw all that hard work and sacrifice away.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Seeley', written in a cursive style.

Ed Seeley, Headteacher

What will happen if my child is off school?

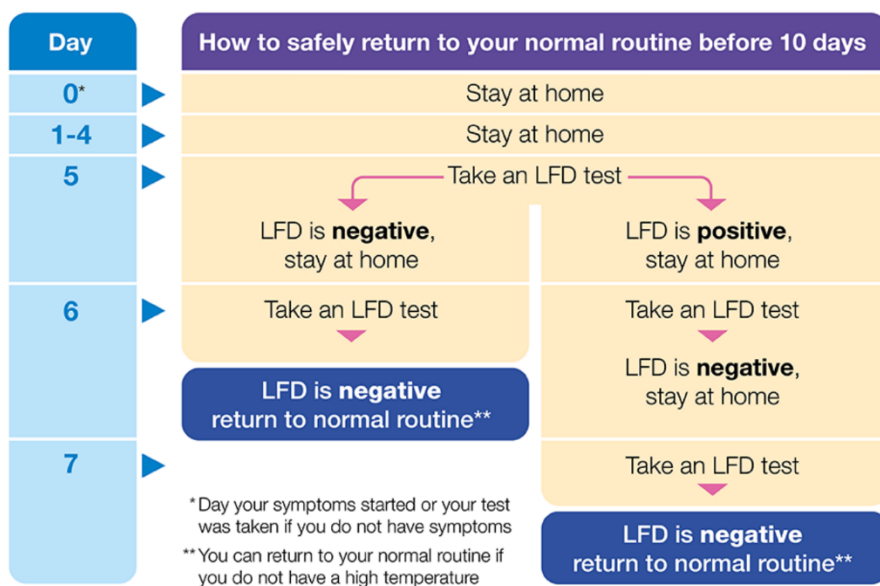
The Department for Education have decided that Covid illness and related absence are now coded as any other illness absence, which could be an 'I' or 'O' code.

If your child is off school for any other reason we must count it another form of absence and it will be treated in line with our attendance policy.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

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.

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>