



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

Advice to All Parents regarding Coronavirus

Dear parents/carers,

Since the return to school at the start of term we are continuing to see a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. We know that you may find this concerning but we are monitoring the situation closely and **do not** currently need to activate our outbreak management plan.

This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

At present, all cases in pupils appear to be linked to household or community transmission and we are not aware of multiple, linked cases within classrooms.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well. Regular twice-weekly lateral flow testing is not recommended for primary school-aged children.

Under new government guidance, children under 18 years and 6 months who are identified as close contacts of a positive case no longer have to self-isolate but are advised to take a daily LFD test for 7 days or until 10 days following the exposure to the confirmed case if this is earlier. NHS Test & Trace is now responsible for all contact tracing and will contact you directly if your child is a close contact. Further guidance is available here: [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

If your child tests positive by LFD, they should immediately self-isolate and remain at home for the next 10 days following the positive test result. They may be able to end self-isolation earlier if they have 2 negative LFD tests taken on two consecutive days, with the first test not taken before the fifth day after symptoms started (or the day the initial test was taken if no symptoms).

While children legally do not need to isolate, we would plead with you to **keep your child at home if anyone in your household tests positive (on either kind of test) or has symptoms**. Parents who have done this 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 as well to all of you that are continuing to wear your face coverings in and around school. We will be keeping these measures in place and will review them at half term. You are helping keep yourself and your fellow parents safe by doing this and again school is so thankful for your consideration of others.

I have written this update to inform you of the changing situation with regards to managing Covid-19 within schools. Schools have been advised that it is not necessary to inform parents of every individual case of Covid-19 which is reported at school. However, please be assured that I am keeping a very close overview of the situation and if cases were to escalate, further controls would be promptly introduced to the school, in liaison with the local health protection team.

Yours faithfully,

Ed Seeley
Headteacher



twitter.com/primaryedgewood



facebook.com/primaryedgewood

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 an absence, not under and 'X' code.

However, if someone in the house has a confirmed positive test or symptoms and we ask you to keep your child off it will be coded as 'C', an authorised absence. If they are waiting for a test result it is coded as 'X02' and if they have Covid it will be an 'I02' code. The I and C codes are absences but we will not fine parents for Covid absence related to these codes. While your child is off for these reasons we will provide online learning for them through SeeSaw; please contact us if there are any problems.

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

The isolation period includes the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if no symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

All other household members who remain well no longer have to self-isolate, as long as they are fully vaccinated (defined as having received the recommended doses of a MHRA-approved vaccination in the UK, with the last dose being at least 14 days before the exposure to COVID-19), medically exempt from vaccination, or aged under 18 years and six months: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection).

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/>