



25th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As I'm sure you are aware of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February Government announcement on ending of all remaining legal COVID-19 restrictions and set out the plan for Living with COVID-19.

The Department of Education also published 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance'. This guidance explains the actions school should take to manage coronavirus (COVID-19) in their school. This includes public health advice, endorsed by the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA). Below are the key headlines of the guidance:

- Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- After 5 days, they may choose to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) followed by another the next day - if both are negative, and they do not have a temperature, they can safely return to their normal routine.
- Those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at risk group, including if they live in the same household.

Individuals can still reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- Getting vaccinated;
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meeting outside;
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high;
- Trying to stay at home if you are unwell;
- Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive; and
- Washing your hands and following advice to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'.

Finally, this article may be helpful if you are unsure of the new rules:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-51643556>

Please extracts below:



150 Birmingham Road,  
West Bromwich,  
West Midlands,  
B70 6QT  
Tel: 0121 679 7522/  
07496734247  
Safeguarding: 07496734211  
Web:  
[www.sandwellvalleyschool.co.uk](http://www.sandwellvalleyschool.co.uk)  
DfE. 333/6011  
Company No: 10288316  
Registered Charity No. 1172272



### ***How are the Covid rules changing in schools?***

Staff and students without symptoms in England are no longer asked to test for Covid twice-weekly. Secondary school pupils also don't need to wear masks.

The legal requirement to self-isolate after a positive test is also being removed, although it is still recommended.

### ***Can a child go to school if they or someone in their household or class has Covid?***

After Thursday 24 February, people in England with Covid will no longer have a legal obligation to self-isolate.

However, people who test positive will still be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least five full days, including school staff and students.

As long as they don't have Covid symptoms, under-18s already don't have to self-isolate if someone else in their household has Covid.

Similarly, whole classes are no longer automatically sent home to isolate if a pupil or teacher tests positive.

However, close contacts aged five or above are strongly advised to test for at least seven days.

All primary and post-primary pupils in Northern Ireland are advised to take an LFT if there are multiple Covid cases in their class.

### ***Which pupils are being vaccinated?***

All children aged five to 11 in the UK will be offered a low-dose vaccine, which is being rolled out on a "non-urgent" basis. It's expected to be offered in England in April, and plans are also under way in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In addition:

- the low-dose vaccine is already being offered to five to 11-year-olds with medical conditions that put them at greater risk
- all children aged 12 and over are being offered two doses of the Pfizer jab
- sixteen and 17-year-olds who had a second vaccine dose at least three months ago can have a booster

150 Birmingham Road,  
West Bromwich,  
West Midlands,  
B70 6QT  
Tel: 0121 679 7522/  
07496734247  
Safeguarding: 07496734211  
Web:  
[www.sandwellvalleyschool.co.uk](http://www.sandwellvalleyschool.co.uk)  
DfE. 333/6011  
Company No: 10288316  
Registered Charity No. 1172272





- the JCVI has also recommended that the booster is also offered to children aged 12-15 who are in an at-risk group or live with someone who is immunosuppressed
- Children who aren't at high risk from Covid should wait 12 weeks after a positive test before having a jab.

Once again, thank you for your support with our efforts to help keep our children safe in school.

Kind regards,

Mim Hall  
Principal



150 Birmingham Road,  
West Bromwich,  
West Midlands,  
B70 6QT  
Tel: 0121 679 7522/  
07496734247  
Safeguarding: 07496734211  
Web:  
[www.sandwellvalleyschool.co.uk](http://www.sandwellvalleyschool.co.uk)  
DfE. 333/6011  
Company No: 10288316  
Registered Charity No. 1172272