

23rd February 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

You will be aware that the Government has announced on 21 February the 'Living with Covid 19 Plan' and have also updated Schools Operational Guidance. This letter summarises the implications for our Academy community.

Key Updates:

Self-isolation: From Thursday 24 February, the government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.

However, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.

Should parents send their child to school if they think they have COVID-19? If a child has any of the main symptoms or a positive test result, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should take/order a PCR test and it is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result.

If they test positive, they are advised to follow public health advice.

[The Schools COVID-19 operational Guidance February 2022](#) p.11 states: *In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a pupil with confirmed or suspected Covid attending school or college, you can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in your reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.*

Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive. People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting.

The approach we will take at The Axholme Academy is one of encouraging personal responsibility. Students and staff are advised not to attend the Academy if they are a suspected or confirmed Covid case. This will minimise the spread of the virus.

Routine contact tracing will now end. Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate.

More details can be found in the [Living with Covid-19](#) plan. Further detail will be published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on Thursday 24 February.

N.B. It's important to note that the information on contact tracing and isolation in the operational guidance for education settings, as updated on 21 February, only applies until 23 February. From 24 February, schools and colleges will follow the new guidance to be published by UKHSA. If there are further changes once this guidance is published we will share the key information.

Testing: With immediate effect, the government has removed the guidance for staff and students at The Axholme Academy to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. However, we would encourage the taking of a PCR test if any of the symptoms are experienced.

For the time being all staff and students will continue to be able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or [online](#).

Staff and pupils who test positive should use any test kits they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to school if they test negative. If they have run out, they should order additional test kits online via gov.uk or if the Academy has a supply we can provide a box of seven self-test kits if we have an appropriate route to do so, such as through a sibling or parent/guardian. The Academy no longer has the facility to order additional test kits beyond the stock we already have at our site

New DfE guidance on asymptomatic testing in education settings from 21 February 22 is available [here](#).

If there are further updates when the UKHSA Guidance is updated on 24th February we will provide them. If you have any questions please contact us at the Academy. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



**D Keogh
Principal**