



Laurel Avenue Community Primary School and Nursery

The Woodlands, Durham, DH1 2EY
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19th January 2022

Parents/Carers information regarding additional measures in school

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been advised that there have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. NHS test and trace will be in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are legally required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice. For full details of the guidance please see www.gov.uk/backtoschool

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

We have sought advice from our local Public Health team and in line with our contingency plan, which all schools are required by the DfE to have in place, we will continue with the following measures:

- We are continuing to group children in Class Bubbles
- The use of face coverings for all adults if needing to visit school
- Non-essential activities – these will be cancelled until further notice and we will advise you further about specific activities where this is the case

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

This is in addition to the measures we have previously communicated to you about:

- cancelling or postponing educational visits
- open days or events have been moved to a virtual format
- cancelling or postponing whole school events e.g. assemblies
- PCR testing for all adults and pupils if they are a close contact of a positive case in their household*.
- daily LFT testing at home for 7 days for any adult or secondary age pupil or primary pupil aged 5yrs and older who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental

discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive*

- Additional attention will continue to be given to ventilation, cleaning and respiratory and hand hygiene

*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

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

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

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19). If positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken.

It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day.

This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

What to do if there is a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in your household?

- PCR testing for all adults who are not exempt from self-isolation if they are a close contact of a positive case and are required to self-isolate*.

- Daily LFT testing for 7 days for any adult or secondary age pupil or primary pupil aged 5yrs and older who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive*.

*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms

Help, support, and further information.

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk