

Laurel Avenue Community Primary School

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investing in children



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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.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Government advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from 24 February 2022. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests and contact tracing has ended.

For full details of the guidance to Parents/Carers please see www.gov.uk/backtoschool with key messages about Living with COVID-19 and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education.

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 be re-introducing the following measures:

- Face coverings – will be reintroduced for staff in communal areas, as previously there will be reasonable exemptions for their use and for visitors having meetings in school.*
- Testing – some pupils may be advised to take a PCR test and we will inform individual pupils where this is advised.*
- Non-essential activities – these will be cancelled until further notice and we will advise you further about specific activities where this is the case. This includes swimming for Year 4. (Year 3 swimming will be rescheduled and we'll let you know when they will start.)*

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

*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 stay at home until the result is known. Get a free PCR test to check if you have COVID-19 If the PCR test is positive, your child should

continue to stay at home, self-isolate and avoid contact with other people for up to 10 days after their symptoms appeared. (See self-isolation section below)

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 taken an LFD test and receives a positive result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home, self-isolate and avoid contact with other people for up to 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. (See self-isolation section below).

People who receive positive LFD test results for COVID 19 are not required to take a confirmatory PCR test. You must register your LFD results at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD unless they develop new symptoms.

Self-isolation

There is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the Public Health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

Self-isolation can be ended after 5 full days following two consecutive negative LFD test and you do not have a high temperature. You can take an LFD test from 5 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. If both these test results are negative, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test.

If your test result is positive on day 5, you can carry on doing rapid lateral flow tests every day until you get 2 negative test results in a row. You should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results.

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

Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.

Those who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 should follow the government advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts

Help, support, and further information.

To help you 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 www.durhamlocate.org.

