



West Moors Middle School

Heathfield Way, West Moors

Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0DA

Telephone: 01202 872474

Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

27th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

On the 21st February 2022, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response '[Living with COVID-19](#)'. It is wonderful that after two long years, we are edging towards life without Covid-19 restrictions, although as a community we are mindful that this elicits different responses in those around us.

The Department for Education (DfE) wrote to schools providing information which I am sharing with you. The bold text comes directly from the DfE's email.

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

In addition, the Government will:

No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

Staff and children in schools are not expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. School will no longer be able to hand out test kits and so if you have spare kits you are welcome to continue to use them for as long as they last but there is no expectation that you purchase kits and continue to test on a routine basis.

From the 24th February 2022, there is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if your child has 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.

The key symptoms of Covid-19 continue to be recognised as:

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



Headteacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs D East BSc (Hons) PGCE SENDCo



Guidance remains that at the onset of key symptoms you should book a PCR test. The guidance document states that children who have symptoms of COVID-19 are more likely to pass the virus onto others than those who do not and therefore **this guidance states that children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious**. Full details are available from the government's guidance document- [click here](#). This document explains that people who have Covid-19 should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

Although these are now guidelines rather than legal requirements, we hope that parents and carers will choose to adhere to these guidelines. This will help to ensure that our staff remain Covid-free and therefore able to continue to provide high quality education to your children. In line with this guidance we therefore advise that students and staff with key symptoms or a positive test result remain at home whilst infectious. This will help ensure that people with symptoms or a positive test should not attend the school whilst infectious, given the potential risk to others.

In January 2022, we asked parents and carers to continue to wear face coverings when they were on school grounds in order to help reduce the risk of transmission. As I mentioned earlier, members of the school community feel differently about the changes in restrictions so if you feel able to do so, it would be appreciated if parents and carers would continue to wear face coverings when on the school's site.


In the event of a Covid-19 outbreak in school:

The schools' operational guidance explains that measures could still be reintroduced for a short period of time if the school were to experience an outbreak. This might include for example, recommending testing regularly and using face coverings again. Currently, face coverings are a personal choice for children and staff in school. The operational guidance continues to emphasise the importance of good hand hygiene, regular cleaning of the school building and good ventilation. We will continue to follow this guidance, and would ask that you support us as we encourage your children to continue to hand sanitise throughout the day, using either the sanitiser at school or if they would prefer, bringing their own sanitiser with them. The full operational guidance document can be found [here](#).

Many thanks for your support with this matter whilst learning to live with the Covid-19 virus, together.

We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school tomorrow after their half term break.

Warmest Wishes,



Dr Deborah Craddock

Head Teacher