

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear parent/carer,

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Updates for January 2022

Please read the following letter carefully as, since we last wrote to you, the Government has updated guidance on self-isolation for individuals who test positive for COVID-19, daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and face coverings.

Changes to COVID-19 measures in school:

Pupils have been wearing face coverings in communal areas since December. However, in line with updated Government guidance, pupils will now be asked to wear face coverings in classrooms too.

As you will be aware from the media, schools may struggle in the coming weeks with staff absence and pupil absence too, due to infection rates in the community. Rest assured we will be doing everything we can to keep pupils in school learning. We will keep you regularly updated with any relevant information.

To keep us all safe, please make sure your child tests twice weekly at home, with tests 3-4 days apart.

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19:

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information, including examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms, is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19:

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day



for **7 days** and continue to attend their setting (school/work) as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time i.e. if you test negative, you can continue to attend school.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Further information from the Government can be found here: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)

You need to report each test result (positive, negative or void):

- To the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result.](#)
- And to the school: [PUPILS Home Test Result Form](#) | [STAFF Home Test Result Form](#)

Face coverings at Risedale:

- All pupils, staff and visitors **must wear a face-covering in communal areas and classrooms** unless they are exempt. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26th January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed by the Government.
- Pupils should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport unless they are exempt.
- If you believe your child should be exempt from wearing a face-covering please email the school with their name, tutor group and condition so we are aware of the reason enquiries@risedale.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr Colin D Scott
Headteacher

