



12th November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

COVID-19 Updated Guidance

Yesterday evening, we received updated guidance from Public Health Somerset relating to all schools in Somerset. Whilst infection rates are declining in some parts of the county, overall our rates remain high; our local rates remain significantly higher than the England rate.

The following measures will be in place until at least the end of November and an update will be sent before December 2021.

The enhanced measures include:

- Promoting social distancing and reducing crowding where possible. **All parents/carers should wear a mask when collecting and dropping their children.** Staff continue to wear masks when out the front of school on gate duty. Families should continue to stagger their drop off and collection within the time of 8.40 am and 8.50 am in the morning and 3.30 pm and 3.40 pm at the end of the school day. Please continue to use the appropriate gates or the field gate and **move away** once you have collected or dropped your child.
- We will return to 2 metre gaps between classes eating lunch in the marquee. During break times we will separate classes for the run and playtimes. We have also reverted back to virtual assemblies.
- Good infection prevention control: we will continue to have extra cleaning at lunch times and touchpoint cleaning in areas where surfaces are touched often.
- Staff will continue to use face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, when space is limited.
- Ventilation on site continues to be a priority. Our CO2 monitors have now arrived in school but we will continue to open windows during lesson times and have a ventilation break where windows and doors will be fully opened after each lesson. Although we have our heating on full, please remember to send children in extra layers if they are cold. The grey school hoodie can be worn over a school jumper or cardigan too.
- Any household contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19 identified by NHS Test & Trace should book a PCR test and whilst awaiting test results, undertake a daily LFD test and only attend school if this is negative- this includes students of primary age under parental discretion. The new LFD tests are nasal swabs only and much easier to use than previous stocks
- Sporting events can continue outside, as can afterschool and extra-curricular activities.



Parent/carers are reminded to please take up the offer of free tests and record their results on [NHS Test and Trace](#).

Close Contact Current Advice:

If staff or a pupil is identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace, they may be asked to take daily lateral flow device (LFD) tests, while they wait for their PCR test result. In this scenario, the staff member or pupil should continue to attend school or college as long as their LFD test results remain negative and they feel well.

Somerset County Council Public Health advice remains consistent with national guidance:

- Twice weekly LFD testing
- Make sure you do an LFD according to the instructions and at least 30 minutes after eating or drinking
- If you get a positive LFD or have symptoms get a PCR and use the supervised PCR testing route at test centre to get the best quality test
- Take up the offer of vaccination

If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace then they should take a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) or by calling 119.

When ordering a PCR test it is important to tick the box (online) or tell 119 'I've been told to get a test by my health protection team' and not 'I've been told to get a test by my school or nursery'.

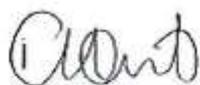
As a reminder, the symptoms for Covid-19 remain the same:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

For any families due to attend a Reception 2022 tour next week, we will continue to conduct these outside. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or queries.

Regards



Tracey Hart
Headteacher

