



Whitby Heath Primary School

Head Teacher
Mrs. R Jewitt
B.A. (Hons) QTS/NPQH

'Excellence in a Caring Community'
www.whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk
admin@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers

Further to the updates regarding current COVID19 guidance in last week's newsletter, the Local Authority Public Health Team have provided further updated guidance for schools which I have outlined below for your information:

We have now entered a new phase of learning to live with the COVID-19 virus, and our priority is to support the delivery of resilient face-to-face teaching.

As teachers and parents we should still be alert to the three core COVID-19 symptoms so we can make the best choices for our schools and families.

COVID-19 symptoms and what to do if your child has them

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of:

- a 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 develops any of these symptoms, then arrangements should be made for them to take a **PCR test as soon as possible**. Your child should stay at home and avoid contact with others while awaiting the PCR test result. Please note that we are also advising schools to send home students if they believe they have one or more symptoms requiring a PCR test.

Testing for pupils with symptoms can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. Please keep your child's school informed of the results of any tests.

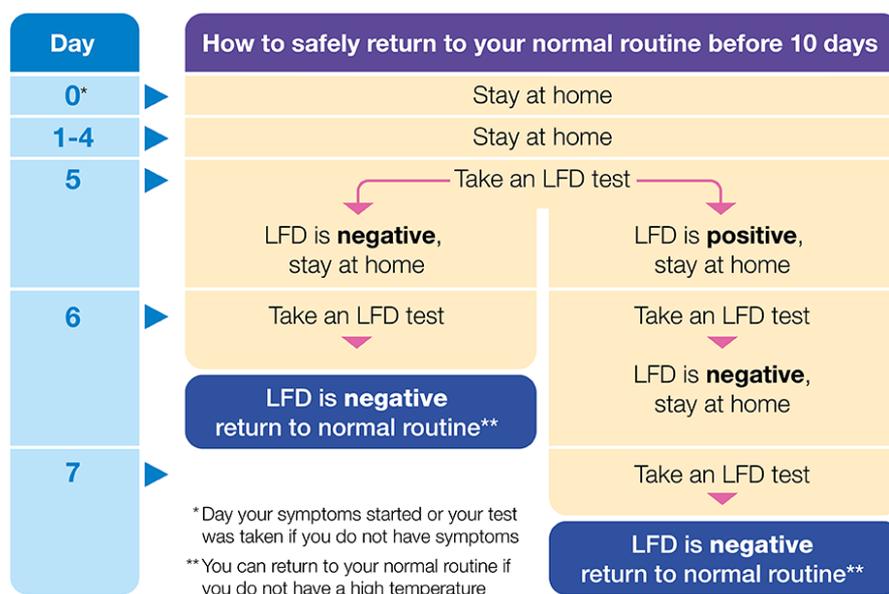
So long as their PCR test result is negative, your child/children can continue to attend school as usual, if they have no symptoms.



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If any test results are positive, your child/children should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Please see the diagram below for further information on safely returning to their normal routine.



What to do if your child is generally unwell

If your child is unwell with general symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose, and/or headache/muscles aches, they should not attend school to avoid spreading infection within the school. Schools will send students home if they believe they present a risk of infection to other students.

Pupils who are in the same household as a symptomatic or positive case (e.g. siblings)

If an individual in a household tests positive or has symptoms, any children and young people in that household who attend school or college should:

- Attend their education or childcare setting as normal
- Minimise contact with the person who has COVID-19 at home
- Avoid contact with anyone you know who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system.
- Pay close attention to the main symptoms of COVID-19. If they develop any of these symptoms, seek a PCR test. They are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while waiting for the test result.

Changes in line with government 'Living with COVID-19' plan

- No-one is legally required to self-isolate if they test positive for COVID-19. They are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- Regular asymptomatic LFD testing is no longer recommended.
- Unvaccinated individuals are not legally required to self-isolate following contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Individuals can still take an LFD test from day 5 after symptoms started (or the day you had the test if you do not have symptoms) and 24 hours after that. If these tests are both negative, individuals can return to their normal routine before 10 days.
- Contact tracing conducted by NHS Test and Trace has been discontinued.

Current DfE Guidance regarding COVID19 vaccinations for 5-11 year olds

Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed can get the COVID-19 vaccine, in line with advice set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Eligible children include those with diabetes, immunosuppression, learning disabilities, and other conditions as outlined by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). Further information is available in the guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years published by UKHSA, which can be found by visiting: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years/a-guide-for-parents-of-children-aged-5-to-11-years-of-age-at-high-risk?utm_source=8%20March%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

The DfE have also published some frequently asked questions on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19.

This information can be found at:

https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/11/vaccinations-for-clinically-vulnerable-children-and-young-people-your-questions-answered/?utm_source=8%20March%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Following advice from the JCVI, healthy 5 to 11 year old children will also be offered two 10 microgram doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April.

Thank you for your continued support and please rest assured that we will continue to monitor the situation, within school and locally and nationally, very carefully and to be guided by the advice of our local Public Health Team at all times.

Kind regards

Mrs Rebecca Jewitt

Headteacher



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