



## Important Information about COVID



**10th March 2022**

Dear Parents and Carers.

Please email me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the information contained in this letter at: [head@lockwood.rac.sch.uk](mailto:head@lockwood.rac.sch.uk)

The end of COVID restrictions unfortunately does not mean the end of COVID. In order to continue to protect our children their families and staff I would request you follow the guidance below.

The two documents in the links below contain Guidance from the Government that we are asked to follow. I have summarised the important information for you in this letter.

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/104131/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts)

### **Tracing close contacts and isolation**

Public health advice for People with COVID-19 and their contacts changed on 24 February 2022. Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.

**However, if your child is unwell with covid symptoms and has had close contact, you must keep them off school and should order and complete a PCR test to reduce the risk of an outbreak.**

### **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas.

*However, if you have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, it is advised you wear a face covering.*

### **Stepping measures up and down**

We have contingency plans outlining how we would operate if we need to take extra measures in exceptional circumstances. Given the detrimental impact that restrictions on education can have on children and young people, any measures we apply will only ever be considered as a last resort, kept to the minimum number of groups possible, and for the shortest amount of time possible.

**The contingency plan will only be acted upon if there was an outbreak of COVID in a particular year group or across the school and always in consultation with Public Health.**

***You can help prevent the implementation of our contingency plan by keeping COVID out of school as much as possible.***

### **School Control Measures**

We will:

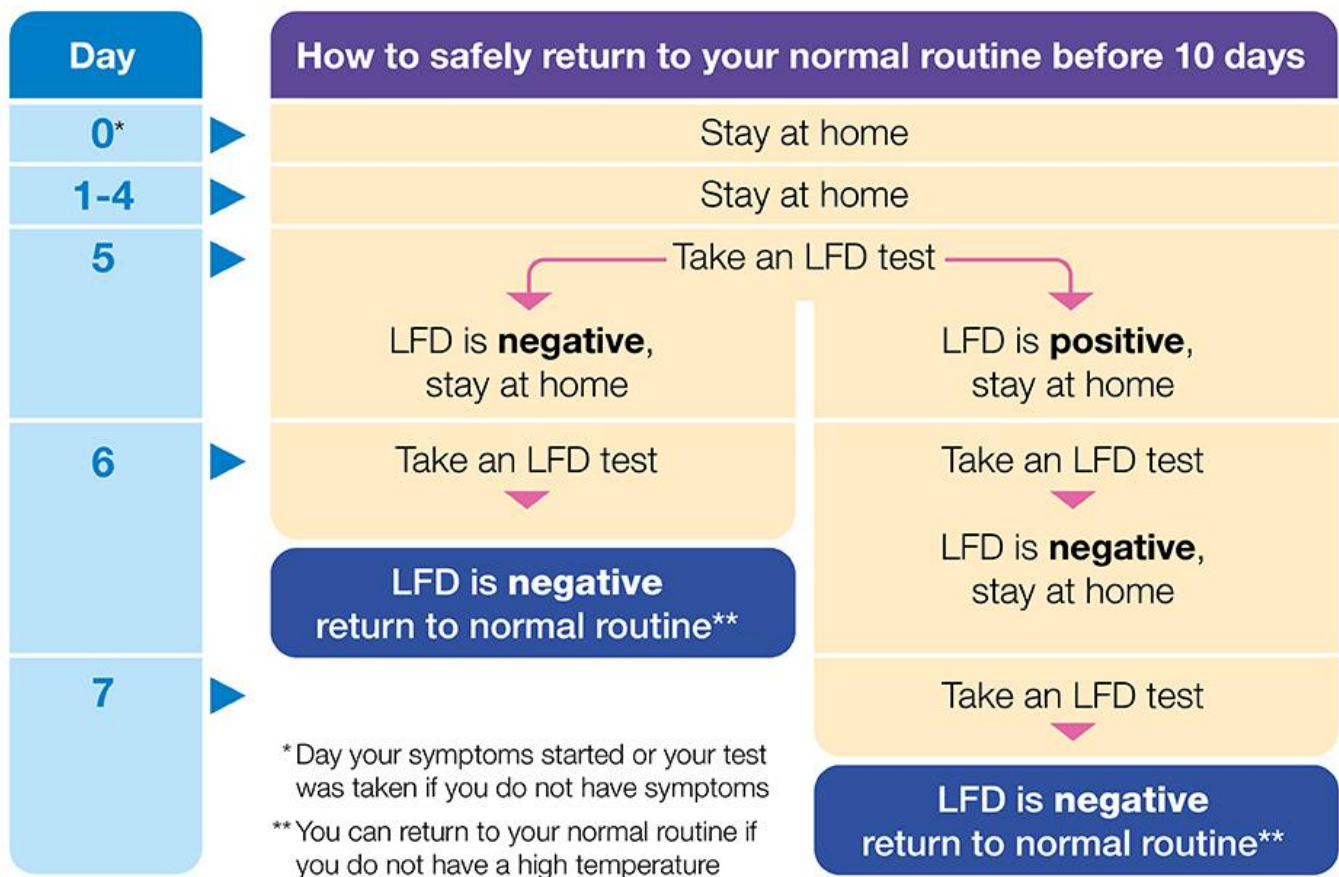
1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19 when an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

***We ask you to maintain the same control measures for your family.***

## When should I keep my child off school?

Always ring or email us for advice on this but the main reasons to keep your child off school would be:

1. If your child has symptoms of COVID. *If you are concerned they have COVID you should get a PCR test to confirm this.*
2. If your child has tested positive through a PCR test please follow the isolation guidance. Day 0 is the day that symptoms started. The diagram below explains isolation timing.



I have copied below the latest guidance about symptoms and what to do if a family member is displaying them from the NHS website.

### This advice is straight from the NHS website

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

### **What to do if your child has symptoms**

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
2. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until you get the test result.

Government guidance regarding how to share a home who is covid positive can be found on the front page of our website.

Although the threat from Covid-19 appears over, it has not gone away completely.

As a school will endeavour to find some normality for your children. They are in much need of it. To help us, we ask you to be vigilant-as always-to keep COVID-19 out of our school, to allow normality to continue.

Thank you for your continued support over the last two years and in the months to come.

Mrs Lesley Lawson

Headteacher