



Headteacher: Mrs Holbrook

# WIRRAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE



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Dear parents and carers,

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

You may be aware that rates of COVID-19 in Wirral seem to be very slowly decreasing. However, they are still high. As we are also entering the Winter season, viruses other than COVID will be circulating, so local schools/settings will face a huge challenge in attempting to reduce the risk of infections spreading.

Whilst we know that infection can and does happen within the setting environment, our local Public Health team has told us that almost half of all Wirral's current COVID-19 cases are due to infection within households. On the basis of this, we have been asked to issue the following, updated guidance:

### Covid- When should my child self-isolate or miss school?

<p>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</p> 	 <b>NO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All children MUST attend school unless they are ill or have Covid Symptoms.</b></li> <li>• <b>Children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a close contact tests positive for Covid.</b></li> <li>• <b>Instead, they will need to book a PCR test (ideally on day 3-5 after they were first in contact with the household case) but can continue coming to school whilst they wait for the result.</b></li> <li>• <b>In addition, household contacts (children over 5) are advised to start daily Lateral Flow Testing. It is recognised that younger children may find this more distressing, so depending on your child, this may only be appropriate for KS2 children.</b></li> <li>• <b>They can continue coming to school as long as they have <u>no symptoms</u>, and the test result is negative.</b></li> </ul>
	 <b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <u>stay at home</u> and should book a PCR test), <u>NOT</u> a Lateral Flow test.</b></li> <li>• <b>If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test.</b></li> <li>• <b>If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.</b></li> </ul>

### Covid Symptoms

#### Three main symptoms

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste

### Additional Symptoms

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

*Please be alert to the above symptoms and if your child is displaying these symptoms, please do not bring them to school, and take your child for a PCR test.*

*Thanks everyone,*

*Helen Holbrook  
Headteacher*