



# Wroxall Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Lynn Torrance

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Changes to national guidance – living with COVID-19**

As I'm sure you are aware, from 1st April the country has moved into a new phase of managing COVID-19. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you with the new guidance and what this means for attendance at school.

All testing, both asymptomatic and symptomatic, has ended for the general public. Testing will only be available to those individuals who, despite vaccination, are still clinically vulnerable (and those people will have been identified and written to with specific instructions) and for high risk settings such as care homes or the NHS but even this is at much lower levels than previously. There is new national guidance for people who have symptoms of respiratory infections including COVID-19 and/or a positive test result, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#Children>

This includes advice for children and young people attending education and childcare settings. The key points are:

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can go back to education or childcare setting when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.
- If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day, they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days.
- Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

For the education and childcare sector, the management of COVID 19 will be in line with how other respiratory viruses such as colds and flu are managed. This means that there will not be any restrictions within the setting and testing for COVID 19 is unlikely to be available for outbreaks.

The guidance for respiratory infections including COVID 19 and flu is now in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>, which has been updated. The focus is on ensuring good baseline infection prevention and control measures. These will not stop respiratory infections spreading but aim to interrupt the cycle of infection so that transmission of infection is reduced overall. The key baseline measures are:

- Good respiratory hygiene (catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and dispose of as soon as possible) and hand hygiene (washing hands including after using the toilet and before eating)
- Environmental cleaning
- Ventilation and use of outdoor spaces
- Vaccination of those eligible.

An action card for respiratory infections (which will be followed within school), is attached and contains further details about the baseline measures and when staff and children and young people should stay home and not attend school.

Most of those who were considered extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID 19 are now not considered have this level of vulnerability because vaccination has been shown to protect at high levels against severe disease. Those whose immune systems means they are still vulnerable have been offered additional vaccinations and access to the new anti-viral medications and will continue to have access to tests.

I do hope that this helps to make the current situation clear within school but please do ask if you would like any further information.

Kind regards



Lynn Torrance

Headteacher