

Testing and Isolation Changes *Emailed on 23/02/2022*

Dear members of the Langley community,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the Living with Covid-19 plan, we ask you to carefully read through the following procedural updates:

Changes to testing in education and childcare settings

- From the 21st February, the government has removed the guidance for staff and pupils to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. Testing kits will now only be supplied to schools for use in an outbreak situation, in agreement with the local public health outbreak team. The requirement to test daily as a close contact has also been removed.

What if staff, pupils and students want to continue to test regularly?

- Although this is no longer recommended by the government, staff in education and childcare settings and pupils and students can still access test kits by ordering them online (see link below) or through their local pharmacy if they wish to continue to regularly test.

What if I have Covid symptoms?

- If you have symptoms of COVID you are advised to order a test for confirmatory purposes via [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) If you have an unfinished test pack, supplied by the school, please do hold on to this and use if you experience Covid symptoms or have reason to believe you may be covid positive. Should you have difficulty obtaining a test kit, please come back to us and we will assist if we are able to.

Note: Under 5's are not required to test and attendance should be judged upon symptoms of ill health, particularly a raised temperature, as in usual circumstances of illness.

Reporting test results

- If you test positive for covid please do upload your result to the school testing portal and advise coronaupdate@langleschool.co.uk - negative test results are no longer required to be uploaded to the school portal.

Changes to self-isolation

- From Thursday 24th February the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test, however, adults and children who test positive continue to be advised to avoid contact with other people for **5 full days**

For calculation purposes

Day 0 = First day of symptoms or positive result (whichever is first)

You can return to work/school on day 6 providing you do not have a raised temperature and are feeling well enough to do so.

The wearing of face coverings

- Whilst the legal requirement to wear a face covering has been lifted, the government suggests 'you continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet'

With careful consideration, we would kindly ask staff and pupils/students year 7 and above (unless exempt) to continue to wear a face covering in indoor communal areas of our settings and when on school transport. This is to provide us with a little additional time to assess risk mitigation against any impact following the

lifting of regular testing and will be reviewed at the end of the Lent term. There is no requirement to wear a face covering outside, or in the classroom, although staff and children may choose to if they so wish.

Continued risk mitigation

Rest assured we will continue to monitor positive cases, retain increased sanitising of touch points, and encourage regular handwashing. Hand sanitising stations will continue to be in place across all our settings and we will monitor and encourage good ventilation in our indoor spaces.

Finally ...

We realise these changes may be unsettling for many and encourage you to continue to use the coronaupdate@langleschool.co.uk mailbox to speak to us about any concerns you have and to ask any questions you feel have not been covered.

May we thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Rachel Smith

Director of Compliance and Operations