

Dear Langley Community,

'Living with COVID-19' – Next steps for education and childcare settings

The future approach to managing COVID in education and childcare settings will now consider COVID-19 as one of many respiratory illnesses.

- Regular asymptomatic testing within education and childcare settings is no longer advised and test kits are no longer available to educational settings.
- Educational settings are required to follow advice as set out by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).
- Free testing has ended for most people in England, with the exception of NHS settings and those who are at the highest risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, if you think you may be included within this grouping, further information can be found at [Changes to testing for COVID-19 in England - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

In line with the governments updated approach we will be focusing on transitioning to a new way of thinking when managing COVID-19, but we do, of course, recognise that this doesn't mean the virus has gone away or will do anytime soon. At the heart of moving to a new way of living with COVID we will continue with those excellent habits we have developed of implementing and encouraging the basics of **good hygiene** – hand sanitiser will remain available throughout our school sites, regular handwashing will continue to be encouraged and all will be expected to follow the NHS catch, it kill it, bin it regime, tissues, sanitising spray and disposable paper will remain, **cleaning regimes** will continue to be stringent and include touch point sanitising and **good ventilation** will remain common place, with all expected to remain mindful of the air flow in their areas of work and within classrooms, allowing bursts of fresh air throughout the day where possible.

What should you do if you have symptoms of COVID-19?

If you have symptoms of a respiratory illness including COVID-19, you should not go to work or school if you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go about normal activities.

If you have received a positive result, because you have been advised to test, you should abstain from work or school for a minimum of 5 days (19 years and over) or 3 days (18 years and under), you should avoid contact with other people, as with all respiratory illnesses you should return to work or school when you feel well enough to go about normal activities and providing you do not have a high temperature.

Will I be required to wear a face covering?

From the beginning of Trinity term, it will no longer be school policy to wear a face covering whilst within our school sites or travelling on school transport, however, we continue to support those who wish to wear a face covering and will continue to provide a small supply on each of our reception points at both sites. We ask all of those within our community to be mindful that there may be staff, visitors, pupils, and students who are more susceptible to infection and may wish to continue to practice social distancing and continue to wear face covering. Whilst we do not expect a further change in policy in respect of face coverings, this will be kept under review and may be reintroduced, should there be change in circumstances or upon UKHSA advice.

Further questions?

The coronaupdate@langleyschool.co.uk mailbox will continue to be in place as a central point of communication, should you have any questions, wish to confidentially notify us of relating personal circumstances or wish to discuss anything in connection to our approach to managing COVID-19, please do continue to e mail via this mailbox, we will also continue to use the website COVID-19 link as a point of information and updates to the Langley community.

May we thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Kind regards

Rachel Smith
Director of Compliance and Operations