

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Updated Public Health Guidance from Doncaster**

Dear Families,

**Please see below information shared with schools by Public Health in relation to the ongoing Covid-19 Infections**

#### **Return to School Guidance and Advice**

Covid 19 rates across Doncaster have increased rapidly, this is linked to the new Omicron variant. It is expected that these high rates will have a significant impact on the operation and business continuity of many settings, including schools and early years settings throughout January.

The [Covid-19 operational guidance](#) has been updated and includes the temporary introduction of new measures. There are also changes to [national guidance](#) around isolation periods for cases who test negative on LFTs at day 6 and 7 and new advice on daily LFT testing for close contacts.

A summary of how this affects school communities is outlined below:

#### **Management of cases and close contacts**

**Cases:** The self-isolation advice for people with Covid-19 has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFT tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFT test should not be taken before the sixth day. School staff and pupils who have 2 consecutive negative tests on day 6 and 7 can return to school.

#### **Close Contacts with a case of Covid-19, including Household Contacts:**

- **Vaccinated persons and children:** Any persons aged under 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated school staff are strongly advised to take an LFT test every day for 7 days, they are not advised to self-isolate. This daily test should be completed before the person leaves the household for the first time that day. If any of these test results are positive, the person should self-isolate and arrange a PCR test.
- **People who are not fully vaccinated:** Any persons not fully vaccinated and living in the same household as someone with COVID-19 are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate. Fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days after having received 2 doses of an approved vaccine. This applies only to people ages 18 years and 6 months or above.

**Please note: this replaces the previous local advice on Management of Household Contacts which advised PCR testing on days 3-5**

If any child develops symptoms at any time, they must stay home and arrange a PCR test.

### Summary of Operational Guidance

Many measures remain in place around hand hygiene, ventilation and cleaning regimes. Schools are not expected to complete contact tracing in most situations.

**Face coverings** are now recommended for all pupils in year 7 and above, including inside classrooms. Face coverings are not required outdoors on the school site. In primary schools, it is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. This is a temporary measure.

**Effective ventilation** continues to be key in preventing and reducing the impact of an outbreak of COVID-19.

**LFT (asymptomatic) testing** – School staff, secondary aged pupils and household members of any school age child should continue with twice weekly home testing. LFT testing is most effective at identifying people with the virus when they are at their most infectious period.

**PCR testing** – Any pupil or staff member with new COVID 19 symptoms should arrange PCR testing and not attend the school site.

**Vaccination** - Continue to promote vaccination to all who are eligible.

### Staff and Pupils who are Immunocompromised

For school staff and pupils who have previously been identified as **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)**, this definition is no longer in place. However, a small number of people in Doncaster will be severely immunocompromised with those aged 12 and over eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> primary dose of vaccine. Severely immunocompromised individuals may consider advice from their health professional.

### Support and welfare

The [self isolation support grant](#) remains available and the criteria and how to apply is available at the link above. Information about local support for self-isolation is [available here](#), including a phone number for people who need additional support in self-isolation.

At Kingfisher we will continue to reduce the amount of mixing, by operating staggered lunchtimes and breaktimes – this reduces the number of children mixing at anyone time.

We will also continue with frequent hand-sanitising and the sanitising of workspaces within the classrooms. All the children have their own equipment in a labelled bag to avoid the sharing of resources.



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Outside of the classroom, we have implemented additional cleaning of the toilets throughout the day and again this will continue. Any child or classes of children using the toilets will be supervised to reduce the number of children coming into close contact.

I will be writing to you shortly to outline how we will be undertaking our parent conversations with you later in the term. This again will be remotely via telephone.

Our main priority and focus for this term is to remain open for all children throughout the term and I know that you will support us in being able to achieve this as much as possible by following the guidance from Public Health in Doncaster.

Whilst this remains our main priority there may be occasions, if we are unable to safely staff class/year groups, that we have to temporarily move to remote learning for a class, this will always be our last resort and will be for the minimum amount of time possible. I have outlined what this may look like in a separate letter. I would just like to reiterate this will also be a last resort and it is something which we hope to avoid, however we do have to ensure that we have plans in place if needed.

Once again I would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout this academic year and I know by working together that we will be able to ensure that our children continue to receive the quality of learning they deserve.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Skinn  
Principal