

Directorate: Adults and Health

Team: Public Health

Dr Will Maimaris Director of Public Health

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UPDATE ON NEW COVID-19 GUIDANCE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the Government have announced a relaxing of COVID restrictions in England. I am writing to let you know what the new guidance means for you and your children, in relation to COVID-19 precautions in schools and early years settings.

- From Monday 21 February, children in most education and childcare settings are no longer required to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.
- Children that attend Special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings are still advised to continue to test twice per week.
- From Thursday 24th February, the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive COVID test has been removed. However, adults and children who test positive **will continue to be asked to stay at home, not attend school/nursery and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days** and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- Children, staff and other adults should continue to self-isolate when required to do so.
 - o Children should not come into school/nursery if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or for any other reason requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine following travel).
 - o If any child develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school/nursery, the staff will ask you to come and collect your child, and they should be tested as below.
 - o If your child experiences a fever, a cough or a loss of sense of smell/taste then they should self-isolate and book a PCR test.
 - o If your child experiences wider symptoms of COVID-19 (sore throat, runny nose, headache, excessive sneezing, fatigue) then they should take a lateral flow test before returning to school/nursery.
 - o This testing requirement will be reviewed when access to free testing is ended nationally on the 1st April.
- Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal. However, if your child develops any symptoms then they should take a test as outlined above.

The Haringey Public Health team at the Local Authority will continue to monitor cases in the borough and will respond to any outbreaks that occur. Additional infection control measures may be re-implemented on a temporary basis.

Although the government has relaxed the COVID-19 guidance, there are still a significant number of cases in our borough. There are things you/your child can do to help stop viruses like coronavirus spreading.

Do:

- Take a test if you or your child has symptoms of COVID-19
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Remember the importance of good ventilation, especially if you have guests in your home.

Do not:

- Do not send your child to school/nursey if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

I would like to thank you for your ongoing efforts in reducing COVID infections and protecting our schools, nurseries and the wider community.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Will Maimaris
Director of Public Health