



St. Leonard's C.E. Primary School

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Covid Advice

Dear Parents

I hope that you are well and looking forward to the Easter break.

I am writing to you with regards to COVID practices in school and recent new advice from the Government.

These changes are in place, as we are asked by the Government to learn to live safely with COVID-19, and to balance that with helping to reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and passing it on to others. The actions we are now being asked to take will also help to reduce the spread of other respiratory infections.

Most people can no longer access free testing for COVID-19. We are therefore being asked to treat suspected COVID-19 infection in a similar way to other respiratory infections.

There is separate guidance for people who have been informed by the NHS that they are at highest risk of becoming seriously unwell and who might be eligible for new COVID-19 treatments. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-people-whose-immune-system-means-they-are-at-higher-risk>. This includes older people, those who are pregnant, the unvaccinated, those with certain long-term conditions or weakened immune systems. You will not always know whether someone you meet outside your home is at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell. It is for this reason that we are asked to follow the guidance below which is designed to reduce the spread of infection.

GUIDANCE TO REDUCE INFECTION:

1. Stay at home:

Attending education is hugely important for children and young people's health and their future. **When children and young people with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education.**

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, **can** continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

2.Reduce spreading:

If you know that your child has had close contact with someone and suspect they may have COVID-19 then the following actions will reduce their chance of passing on the infection to others (note we are no longer being advised to isolate):

- wearing a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask – this is not requirement for your child in school, however.
- avoiding crowded places such as public transport, large social gatherings, or anywhere that is enclosed or poorly ventilated
- taking any exercise outdoors in places where you will not have close contact with other people
- covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze; wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose and before you eat or handle food; avoid touching your face

USE OF TESTS:

Please note: it is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

However, if your child does have a positive COVID-19 test result, you should try to keep them at home and avoid contact with other people for **three days**. This is different for adults. For adults it is five days.

Can I thank you all for your continued support in keeping everyone across our community safe. Have a lovely Easter break.

Yours sincerely

Kay Ferriday
Head Teacher