

1st March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

New National Guidance on Managing Covid-19 in Education Settings

Welcome back to the start of term 4. I hope your family had an enjoyable break last week.

I am writing to update you on how the recent changes to the government guidelines for responding to cases of Covid-19 will be implemented across all Futura Learning Partnership Schools.

From Monday 21 February, the government removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. This does not apply to special schools however, so staff and students in Year 7 and above at Aspire Academy should continue to take a LFD test twice weekly.

From Thursday 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. People with any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, fever, loss of taste and/or smell) are still advised to stay at home, avoid contact with others and take a PCR test. Other symptoms may be present, however PCR testing and isolation continue to be advised based on these three symptoms.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home 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 LFD test results on consecutive days. There is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to isolate BUT public health guidance STILL advises people to stay home for 10 days, or until they have had 2 negative LFDs on consecutive days from day 5.

Across Futura Learning Partnership, staff and pupils will be required to stay at home if they test positive and each Futura school will continue to implement the basic control measures to minimise the risk of infection: ventilation, promoting good hand and respiratory hygiene, touch point cleaning and use of hand sanitizer. It is important that we continue to be vigilant and we will continue to work closely with our local public health teams to respond quickly should we have concerns about the number of cases, or any pattern of infection, in a school. We have updated our Risk Assessment document to reflect the new guidance and it can be viewed on the trust website (www.futuralearning.co.uk).

Key Messages for Parents and Carers

We would like to ask for your continued support in helping us to keep our staff and pupils safe. The key messages we would like to communicate are:

- Children who are unwell should not attend school and should remain at home until their acute symptoms have gone. This has always been the case
- If these symptoms develop into cough, temperature, changes to taste and smell, current advice remains to isolate and PCR test for COVID-19

- If the test is negative for COVID-19, return to school once well (when acute symptoms have gone)
- If the test is positive for COVID-19, follow advice to isolate and return once well
- Children and young people who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend school as normal
- Parents/carers and other adults who have tested positive should not come onto a school site whilst they are in the period where they could still be infectious

Please inform your child's school if they test positive for Covid-19 and let the school know the dates of their isolation. This will help us to monitor cases and enable us to respond quickly to any potential risk

There is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering but the government suggests people continue to wear one in crowded and enclosed spaces where they may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. In line with this guidance, we are continuing to advise that pupils wear a face covering while travelling on school transport.

We hope this letter explains the new requirements in our schools but if you have any questions please raise them with your child's school or email enquiries@futuralearning.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive