



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Tuesday 14th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to a lot of confusion caused by the information given to the school from Public Health England yesterday, I have attended an online meeting this afternoon with the local health protection team and the head of school improvement for Islington. In that meeting, I have been advised that the information the school was given yesterday was in fact incorrect. This has been put down to the fact that guidance only changed early yesterday morning!

Under the new Government guidance (14 Dec 21) close contacts of a positive case no longer need to self-isolate if they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months or if they are fully vaccinated. Instead they should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

Unfortunately, due to the number of cases we reported yesterday, and the additional cases that have been reported to the school today, we continue to reach threshold on the Islington's control measures guidance, to continue to educate online for the rest of the autumn term.

What do you need to do?

Public Health have advised that because of the number of recent cases all children in Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days, starting immediately.

If any of your child's LFD test results are positive they should self-isolate straight away and take a confirmatory PCR test to verify the result within 2 days. If the PCR result comes back positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the day of the first positive test or when they developed symptoms. They do not need to continue taking LFD tests during that 10 day isolation period. If the PCR result comes back negative, contacts can leave self-isolation but should continue to take LFD tests for the remainder of the 7 days. *Please note a PCR test for under-fives contacts is only advised if the positive Covid case is a member of their own household.*

Please inform the school of the results when received. **It is imperative that you continue to do this until 21st December.**

Do be alert for the symptoms of coronavirus which are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell





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See www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms

If your child develops ANY of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, they should stay at home and get tested as soon as possible. Please be reassured that for most people, especially children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Please note that anyone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 will need to wait 28 days since their positive test before they can get vaccinated.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19. If you or your child is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine but have not yet had it please find more information [here](#) on how and where to get vaccinated
- Meet people outside if possible and open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Continue to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) while on public transport and in busy indoor places
- Take regular LFD (no symptom) tests
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get a PCR test straight away and self-isolate until you get the result.
- If you're a close contact of someone who tested positive, make sure you get a PCR test and self-isolate if you are directed to do so.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

We know that this is a difficult time for families and thank you for your support as we work to keep our school and wider community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsey Hodgson
Head of School





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For more information visit:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/ or by phone 111.

