

Eastlands Primary School

October COVID Guidance 2021

Dear parents,

We have started the autumn term with revised routines in regards to COVID. We have experienced a 'breakout' in year group and using the local authority advice have created a detailed breakout plan which is found here:

<https://www.eastlandsprimaryschool.co.uk/contact-us/communication>

(summary on page 3 of this newsletter)

A huge thank you to you all for your patience and understanding. We understand that requests for children to get tests (in some instances several times), children being sent home with possible symptoms etc is frustrating but this is key to the ongoing safety of our staff, children and families.

The situation remains constantly changing and here is the latest advice from the Local Authority and Public Health England (now know as UK Health Security Agency) for schools in Warwickshire.

- ⇒ It is requested that families consider making twice-weekly LFT testing (for both parents and children) part of their regular routine to help us identify non-symptomatic positive cases within the school community and therefore reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can order them to be delivered to your house or collect them from a wide range of locations (see? <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> for more information).
- ⇒ Please also remain vigilant if your child is unwell in any way. If your child develops one or more of the main COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, high temperature, loss/change in taste/smell), irrespective of how mild, they must isolate and have a PCR test (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>)
- ⇒ If they are sent into school with any of these symptoms, we will have to send them home again. Any child displaying symptoms will not be allowed to return to school until we have notification of a negative PCR test.
- ⇒ Please also be aware of the range of lesser-known symptoms of COVID-19 (headache, sore throat, fatigue, muscle aches, blocked/runny nose, diarrhoea and vomiting) which are, in fact, some of the more common symptoms that we are currently seeing in children in school who have then gone on to test positive. I would strongly recommend you booking a PCR test for these symptoms too.
- ⇒ Given the rise in cases in school, particularly those linked to other household cases, it is urged that families consider keeping the whole household at home in the event of one or more other family members testing positive, at least until a negative PCR result is received for your child.

Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility

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Lansdowne Place, Rugby CV21 3RY Tel: 01788 57328

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- ⇒ General guidance is to wait 48 hours before booking a PCR if you feel you have been a close contact as it takes this long for symptoms to start developing.
- ⇒ Following the negative PCR result, we would then ask you to consider daily LFT testing once your child returns to school, for the duration of the household member's isolation, followed by a return to twice weekly LFT testing after that.
- ⇒ While we are aware that this request is not directly in line with Government guidelines, it is based on advice given to schools by the Local Authority last week in response to the rise in cases in schools.
- ⇒ While we will never refuse to accept your child at school and will always welcome them in, we are acutely aware that often a single household case quickly spreads to other members of the household, if not all of them.
- ⇒ In the cases we have had where parents have kept their whole household in isolation, it has dramatically reduced the need for close contact PCR testing in school and reduced the risk of further positive cases.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions or concerns that you wish to discuss.

We understand it is not always easy to know how to make the right decision – we too have agonised over this many times ourselves in the past few weeks – but we will do our very best to support you all in understanding guidance and doing what is right for your families and our whole school community.

Have a great weekend and thank you again for your constant support at this time.

Coronavirus updates

- ◆ Guidance here on [When to self isolate](#).
- ◆ [NHS Every Mind Matters](#)
- ◆ Government Guidance suggests some key actions to support your child with stress during the pandemic:-
 - ◆ Listen and acknowledge their concerns
 - ◆ Provide clear information about the situation

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COVID-19: Outbreak Management Summary Plan

Outbreak definition:

Two or more test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with a specific non-residential setting with illness onset dates within 14 days, and one of:

- identified direct exposure between at least 2 of the test-confirmed cases in that setting (for example under one metre face to face, or spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres) during the infectious period of one of the cases
- when there is no sustained local community transmission - absence of an alternative source of infection outside the setting for the initially identified cases

Close contact definition:

- direct physical contact (any duration)
- Face to face contact under 1m (any duration)
- Close contact under 1m for 1 minute or more
- 1-2 m for 15 minute or more
- Travel in a vehicle

How parents can help: -

1. Do not send in child with possible symptoms esp. - a persistent cough or if COVID is in your household.
2. If your child has been identified as a close contact consider carrying out twice weekly LFT tests.
3. Consider carefully double vaccinations and booster for all eligible.
4. Use school one-way system
5. Wear face coverings on site
6. Follow PHE advice on isolation and restrictions.
7. Do not send children in with hand sanitizer encourage handwashing as it is more effective.
8. Read school guidance letters.
9. Understand each breakout requires a personalised approach - no 'one size fits all'.

<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/vaccination-drop-in-clinics/>
Thank you

Control Measures – Active:

1. Frequent hand washing
2. Catch It Bin It Kill it message
3. Increased ventilation
4. Maintain cleaning regime
5. Promote full vaccination of staff
6. Follow PHE advice on testing, isolation in confirmed cases

Additional Mitigations – to be enacted in case of a breakout:

1. Seek PHE advice for our site and situation immediately
2. Contact Chair of Governors
3. Reintroduction of 'bubbles'
4. Measures in relation to contact tracing and isolation
5. Reintroduction of face coverings for staff (communal areas, classrooms)
6. Additional LFT or PCR testing recommended
7. Contact tracing
8. Partial closure or closure of the school
9. Other measures based on local context of the school e.g.
 - a. No additional adults on site
 - b. One-way system in school
10. Enable remote learning – dependent on staffing capacity including managing long COVID cases.

Ongoing monitoring: -

1. Complete LA COVID Form daily for tracking purposes
2. Texts to parents advising as required
3. Website communication page updates
4. Keep Chair of Governors informed
5. Send home individual children/staff who are showing possible symptoms
6. Maintain safest possible environment for clinically vulnerable families

Triggers for a local outbreak: -

1. School raises concern about 2+ linked cases
2. 5+ pupil cases within a year group within 5 days
3. 10+ pupil cases across a school across a number of year groups within 5 days
4. 5+ staffing cases, or fewer if impacting on the capacity of the school to operate

INFECTIOUS PERIOD

If symptomatic: 2 clear days before day on which symptoms start – and for 10 days after

No symptoms: 2 clear days before the day of the test – to 10 days after