

# Eastlands Primary School

## December COVID Guidance 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you all for your co-operation, patience, understanding and support over this challenging term. Clearly, the COVID situation still needs some thought as we plan for the January start.

COVID has touched all of us personally and/or professionally. We need to be aware of how to protect ourselves as individuals and as a community. In our community we have people with auto immune vulnerabilities. Safe behaviours are important if we are to keep the stress on the NHS down to a minimum.

The situation remains constantly changing. I have used information from The Andrew Marr Programme, BBC News site, Guardian articles and UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency formerly Public Health England) to inform myself.

**Nationally**, Plan B is in place. This includes the wearing of face coverings in public places and working from home where possible. As of yesterday the Prime Minister encouraged everyone to book their vaccinations. Please use this site to do so:-

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

**Locally**, Rugby numbers were approximately 28 in the week beginning 29th November. This increased to 39 cases last week. Rugby numbers are once again high. Omicron has been detected in a Rugby school.

### **Eastlands School.**

Over the autumn term we have had Delta cases in several year groups (at one point at least one case in each class). Current government guidance does not require close contact to isolate but strongly recommends to get a PCR test and isolate until negative result received.

It seems wise to plan for further increase in cases as we still have several months of winter ahead of us.

The school's Risk Assessment and detailed Outbreak plan can be found here:

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

(summary on page 4 of this newsletter)

The cases in school over the term have led to staff absence which has impacted on learning. When staff are too unwell to plan work please use Oak academy, BBC bitesize and other sites on school website pages.

**Safeguarding is Everybody's Responsibility**

Eastlands Primary School

Lansdowne Place, Rugby CV21 3RY Tel: 01788 57328

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### **Eastlands School Site Guidance. This guidance will be in place in January.**

- ⇒ Please wear face covering over nose and mouth
- ⇒ Maintain 1m + distance.
- ⇒ Arrive, just in time, for school and remain distanced at school gate and on playground.
- ⇒ When approaching the school gate, use the left hand path to come into school and the right hand path to walk away from school.
- ⇒ Use one way system on site. It takes 1 minute to walk around the site. Whilst this is an inconvenience for Year 1 & 2 families, it is the safest thing to do. Thank you for following this advice.
- ⇒ Families should 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).
- ⇒ If you have a positive LFT book a PCR asap. 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.
- ⇒ 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.

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- ⇒ Given the rising number of cases, 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.
- ⇒ 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 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 safe Christmas break and a hopefully we will all have a peaceful start to 2022.

Thank you again for your constant support at this time. Mrs Edwards & the Eastlands Team

## 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

**Stay safe  
this Christmas**

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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

### 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

### 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.

### 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