

West Lodge Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Jim Dees

Thursday 24th February 2022

Updated COVID-19 Guidance

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier this week the government set out the plan for the end of legal restrictions in England which is outlined in the [Living with COVID-19 Plan](#) (overleaf you can see a brief summary of the key changes). The key implications for life at West Lodge are outlined below. We have discussed this with Harrow Public Health and the approach we are taking is in line with schools within our Pinner cluster and schools across Harrow.

From Thursday 24th February

- The legal requirement to self-isolate if you have COVID-19 will end. **However, the guidance still states that people who test positive for COVID-19 will be advised to stay at home for at least five full days and then continue to stay at home until they have two negative tests on consecutive days – we will continue to recommend that parents/carers follow this advice – a summary can be found via this flowchart [Self-Isolation Guidance Flowchart](#).**
- Fully-vaccinated close contacts and close contacts under 18 will not be asked to test daily for seven days. The requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate will also be removed. Routine contact tracing will also end from this date. **However, we will continue to inform you if there has been a positive case of COVID-19 in your child's class and we will advise you to remain vigilant to any potential symptoms and arrange a test for your child if they develop symptoms.** In line with the guidance, we will no longer routinely ask members of the class to take daily lateral flow test for 7 days.

From Friday 1st April

- Free mass testing will end.
- People with COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to exercise personal responsibility when deciding whether to stay at home.

These changes have implications for our community and we realise that many may find these changes daunting. We have a duty of care to our pupils and staff and remain committed to keeping our school population safe and as free from infection as possible. We request that all families continue to be vigilant regarding symptoms and follow the advice outlined in our [COVID-19 Protocol Flowchart \(updated Feb 24th 2022\)](#) and continue to follow the guidance if your child tests positive for COVID-19 (as outlined above).

In line with the guidance outlined in the [Living with COVID-19 Plan](#) we will continue to maintain a number of protective measures at school:

- Ventilation of all learning and office spaces – we will continue to monitor this with CO2 detectors
- The use of air filtration in all learning and office spaces
- Staff will continue to wear face coverings in communal areas
- We will maintain hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning will remain in place
- Staff will continue to test regularly for the rest of this term

We continue to be incredibly grateful for the continued, consistent support that you have provided throughout the challenges of the last two years. We request you remain vigilant to any symptoms your child may have. Thank you once again for all your support.

Yours sincerely,


Jim Dees



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Changes at a glance

Today, 21 February the Government is:

- Removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

From 24 February the Government will:

- Remove the **legal** requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. 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 test results on consecutive days.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.
- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.
- Revoke The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations.

From 24 March, the Government will:

- Remove the COVID-19 provisions within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations.

From 1 April, the Government will:

- Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.
- Update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing.
- No longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.
- Consolidate guidance to the public and businesses, in line with public health advice.
- Remove the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments.
- Replace the existing set of 'Working Safely' guidance with new public health guidance.

