

Principal's Update to Parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Monday 21st February 2022 the Government published its guidance Living with COVID 19. As we return to school after a half-term break there are some notable changes regarding testing and self-isolation, as we learn to live with covid.

The government has removed the guidance for staff and students in our education setting to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

However, **we will continue to ask students to test if symptomatic**. If you have any of the main COVID 19 symptoms you should order a PCR test kit to be sent to your home or book an appointment at a walk-in or drive-through test site. This can be done until 31 March 2022 as free testing will end on 1 April 2022.

If a student tests positive, we expect the student to stay at home, test on both day 5 and day 6 and only return if these tests are negative. If a student continues to test positive, the period of isolation will be extended and end on day 10 as is currently the case. After day 10 a student can return to school. We will be setting work as part of remote learning for those students who test positive for COVID and are isolating.

Therefore, although there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test, **Copleston staff and students who test positive are expected 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. We expect staff and students to do this for the well-being and safety of all on the school site. We will refuse requests for students to be on site following a positive test to protect other students and staff from a possible infection. We believe this to be sensible and in the best interests of the wider school community. This is also in line with the DfE guidance which states that if a parent insists on their child attending nursery, school, or college when they have symptoms, they can take the decision to refuse the child if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This DfE guidance can be seen in the link below.

[DfE guidance for Parents and Carers](#)

Below are links to additional key guidance documents from Suffolk Local Authority, the government, and the department for education as we move into a new phase of dealing with COVID as a nation:

[Suffolk COVID 19 schools and early years plan Living with COVID 19 update](#)

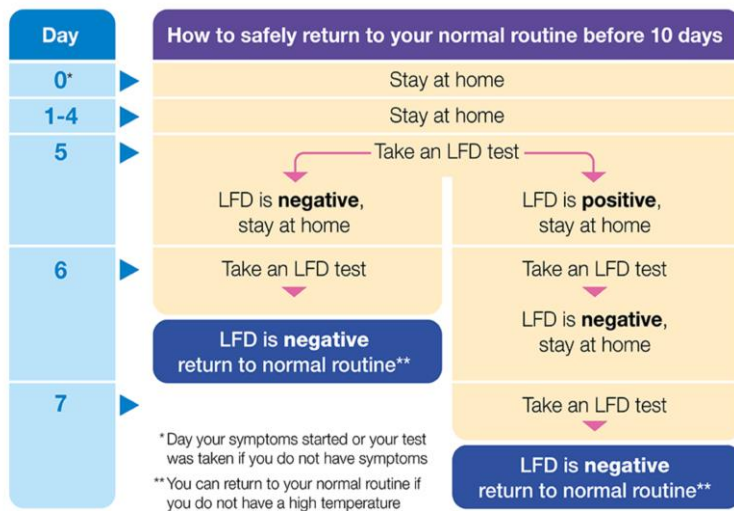
[Schools COVID 19 Operational guidance](#)

[Living with Covid](#)

[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Close contacts linked to a positive case will no longer be required to test daily for 7 days and should attend their school as normal. The diagram helps explain the guidance.



This current guidance will be in place until Easter at which point, we will review the protocols following any new guidance we receive from the government and Department for Education. We look forward to continuing to work together whilst we strive to keep all members of the Copleston community safe.

I hope that you have had a restful and enjoyable half-term break and taken the opportunity to spend some time with family and friends. We are excited about welcoming back our students next week for what I am sure will be another fruitful and rewarding half-term.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that it would be a good idea to order some more lateral flow tests between now and the end of March if you think you might run out. This can be done online.

With my very best wishes

AB Green

Principal