



24 February 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you to provide an update regarding the ending of the legal requirement to self-isolate as well as the end of the twice weekly lateral testing programme. I am sure that you are aware that on Monday, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's Covid-19 response, '[Living with Covid-19](#)'. Subsequently, the Department for Education (DfE) contacted schools and colleges with more details on what this means for education settings. It has also updated a number of guidance documents including the following:

- [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The key points from the relevant guidance documents are as follows:

Self-isolation

- From today, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.
- If a parent or carer insists on a student with confirmed or suspected Covid attending a school or college, the institution can take the decision to refuse the student if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other students and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.
- **Public health advice for [People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#) has changed from today. Contacts are no longer legally required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.**
- As per the [guidance](#), adults who are in close contact with someone in their household or have stayed overnight with someone who has Covid-19 should limit close contact with anyone outside of the household, especially in crowded, enclosed and poorly ventilated areas.
- **Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has Covid-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.**

Testing

- With immediate effect, the government has removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.
- Any decision to implement additional testing measures, including on-site testing, must be agreed with, or recommended by, a Director of Public Health (DPH), the local authority, or a local Health Protection Team.
- Mainstream schools and colleges will be able to order tests if advised to do so in the event of an outbreak in the setting.
- All staff and students will continue to be able to access test kits from their local pharmacy or [online](#).

Vyners School
Warren Road, Ickenham,
Middlesex, UB10 8AB
Tel **01895 234342**

office@vynersschool.org.uk
www.vynersschool.org.uk

Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

- **Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive. People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting.**
- Staff and students who test positive should use any test kits they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to school or college if they test negative. If they have run out, they should order additional test kits online via [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Alternatively, the school can supply them with a box of seven self-test kits whilst we still have means to do so. This might be through a sibling or parent/carer or in the post. Parents should contact the school reception where necessary.
- New DfE guidance on asymptomatic testing in education settings from 21 February 22 is available [here](#).

Please also note that the registration of students' negative results with the school is no longer required. We will close those Google Forms at the end of the school day, today.

Longer-term plans

- From Friday 1 April, the Government will no longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England. The government will update guidance on the steps that people with Covid-19 should take to minimise contact with other people accordingly.

I would like to stress the point from the guidance that states that whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate, schools **can** refuse to allow staff or students who have tested positive to attend the site as this would be deemed to be a health and safety matter. The mindset has moved from a pandemic to an endemic. Therefore, it is now about how schools deal with infectious diseases. For example, if a child had Chickenpox, they would remain at home until they are no longer infectious. **Given that this is the case and the fact that Vyners has such a strong community ethos, we would fully expect that parents would not knowingly send their child to school if they had either tested positive for COVID-19 or were exhibiting known Covid-19 symptoms.**

I would also like to emphasise that school leaders are fully aware that there will be those within the school and wider community who will feel concerned about this next phase, whilst others will see it as a welcome step forward. I would ask that we all be respectful of the views of others on these matters and continue to do our best to keep each other safe and make each other feel comfortable.

We will continue to follow the guidance related to hand and respiratory hygiene as well as the requirements for excellent general hygiene and ventilation for enclosed spaces. I will be working with Mrs Foster, Deputy Headteacher in the days ahead to update the school's Covid-19 risk assessment, which will be published on the school's website in due course.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support for the adherence of all previous measures and for their support with these next steps. We will continue to update the school community as and when necessary.

Yours sincerely



Gary Mullings
Headteacher