

28th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID Update – Living with COVID Plan

I am writing to let you know how the Government’s “Living with Covid Plan” will manifest at Potterspurty Lodge School, having reviewed the various documents from the Department of Education and the UK Health Security Agency. In establishing the guidelines below, I have also taken into account guidance issued to schools from West Northamptonshire Council.

Self Isolation

- From Thursday, 24th February the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive Covid test. Staff and Students will continue to be advised to take a PCR test in the event of returning a positive lateral flow test. The UK Health and Security Agency mandate is very clear that the directive is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days on the return of a positive test. The individual will then continue to follow public health guidance until two negative tests are returned on consecutive days.
- As we have a duty to uphold the health and wellbeing of students and staff onsite, and have a duty of care to individuals at home who live with our students and staff, we may not admit a student if they present with Covid symptoms, or have tested positive for Covid. An informed decision will be made on the day.

Testing

- Staff and students of secondary age and above in SEND settings are advised to continue twice-weekly testing, we are able to continue to order kits for our students. We will continue to offer testing to our students in school. Please note that this is not the case in maintained schools that may be attended by siblings.
- Students who test positive should use any test kits individuals they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to Potterspurty Lodge (if individuals test negative). If students run out of testing kits, individuals should order additional test kits online via [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/coronavirus-covid-19/rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or, if we have kits available we will provide students with a box.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas

Remote Learning

The obligation to provide remote learning elapsed on the 24th February. If a young person has Covid, and is well enough to complete work from home, a decision will be made on what the best course of action is to deliver work to the individual for the duration that student is away from the school. Through the pandemic we have learnt that the vast majority of our young people prefer a work pack, but we will look at individual circumstances in this situation and act accordingly.

If you have any questions on any aspect of this letter please get in touch. Thank you for your support in advance.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Nimmo
Principal

