



Ridgeway Infant School & Gayton Junior School



Sunday 9th January 2022

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your family have been safe and well over the holiday period. We very much looking forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 10th January. There have been some significant changes to Covid-19 guidance since the end of the Autumn term and the purpose of this letter is to clarify these changes ahead of the new term.

Our most recent information from Derby Public Health Team is that the Omicron variant is dominant in the city and this has led to cases rising to 5 times that seen at the start of this academic year in September. This has led to difficulties obtaining tests locally, meaning that the true number of Covid-19 cases in Derby is likely to be higher than published data suggests. We are told that predications are that case numbers will continue to rise over the next half term and this will inevitably lead to significant rates of absence for both staff and children. The following guidance is based on national and local advice in light of challenges around obtaining tests and business continuity.

Changes for people who have symptoms of Covid-19

Anyone who displays symptoms of Covid-19 should immediately self-isolate and [book a PCR test](#) . If there are no drive in appointments available, please request a postal test. Children will be required to stay at home until a result is received. If the result is negative, the child can return to school once proof of the negative result has been provided.

This guidance has not changed.

If the PCR test result is positive, is it necessary for the positive person to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms. Self-isolation can now end early from day 7, under certain conditions:

- the positive person must **not** have a high temperature, as this is a good sign that they are still infectious, and
- two rapid lateral flow tests taken at least 24 hours apart **both** show a negative result. The earliest these tests can be taken is any time from day 6. For example, a negative result on day 6 at 2pm, and a second negative result on day 7 at 2pm.

Providing **both** conditions are met, self-isolation can end immediately following the second negative test. If one of these conditions is not met, isolation should end any time after day 10 providing they do not continue to have a high temperature.

Please see the chart below for details.

Changes for people who have no symptoms, but have a positive lateral flow test result as part of twice weekly testing

We strongly encourage all families to test twice weekly to help to identify positive cases in people who do not display any symptoms. Thank you to everyone who is doing this.

If a positive result is identified on a lateral flow test, there is now no need to confirm this with a follow up PCR test. You should report the positive test to school and [report LFD to the Gov.UK website](#) in the usual way. The positive person will need to isolate as above for at least 10 days from the date of the lateral flow test. They can also end self-isolation early as described above if both conditions are met.

Changes for people who have a positive case within their household

In the autumn term, local advice was that any children with a positive case in their household should self-isolate until they have received a negative result from a PCR test. This has been temporarily changed given the difficulties in obtaining PCR tests.

If someone in the household is positive, advice is now that children aged 5 may still attend school but that they should test with a lateral flow test every morning before school for 7 days and, provided that they are symptom free and the test is negative, may attend school each day. We encourage children aged 4 to also test daily, if parents/carers are happy to do this and children are not distressed. Please make sure that negative tests are reported to school and on the Gov.uk website in the usual way. We will need to see evidence of a negative lateral flow test for all 7 days in order for children to attend school. This should be the text or email confirmation received when you [report LFD to the Gov.UK website](#). You can email this evidence to school before the start of the school day (please do this in good time so the message can be passed to door staff) or show the email confirmation on the door as your child enters.

Changes for visitors to school

At the moment, only essential visitors will be able to enter the school building. All visitors must show evidence of a negative lateral flow test before entering school, maintain a social distance from others and wear a face covering for the duration of their visit. If you need to speak to a member of staff, please feel free to contact them in the usual way.

Preparation for Remote Learning and changes to definitions of 'Key Workers'

Although we are not anticipating a move to remote learning, all schools have been advised that should staff absences cause unsafe staffing levels and we are unable to secure agency staff to cover these absences, it may be necessary for some children/classes to move to remote learning.

Although we will do everything possible to avoid it, due to the highly infectious nature of the Omicron variant, any move to remote learning is likely to be at short notice. However we will ensure that any periods of remote learning is for as short a time as possible; we know the impact that remote learning has on our working parents and carers.

If a move to remote learning is required, school will remain open to key worker and vulnerable children **if possible**. As the list of eligible key workers has been updated, we will be in touch again next week to ask parents to complete a survey and provide evidence of their key worker status, so that if we do need to switch to remote learning we can do so very quickly.

Finally, may we ask that if school does not have your most up to date contact details, please provide them to us immediately to ensure we can contact families in an efficient and timely manner.

If you have any questions or queries about any of the changes described above, please do not hesitate to contact us, or any member of the team, to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,



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A Summary of Changes

Previous Guidance	Current Guidance (changes in red)
<p>Symptomatic cases: Seek a PCR test and provide school with evidence of negative result before child may return to school. If positive, 10 day isolation from start of symptoms as 'day 0'</p>	<p>Symptomatic cases: Seek a PCR test, postal if necessary and provide school with evidence of negative result before child may return to school. If positive, 10 day isolation from start of symptoms as 'day 0' Isolation can end early if 1) no temperature AND 2) 2 negative lateral flow tests 24 hours apart from day 7 (see chart below) Evidence required by school</p>
<p>Asymptomatic cases (positive lateral flow tests): Take a confirmatory PCR test within 2 days and report to school and on Gov.uk website Self-isolate as above taking date of lateral flow test as 'day 0'</p>	<p>Asymptomatic cases (positive lateral flow test): No need for confirmatory PCR Report lateral flow test to school and on Gov.uk website Self-isolate as above taking date of lateral flow test as 'day 0'</p>
<p>Positive case in the household: PCR test needed. Evidence of negative result provided to school before child may return. If positive result, follow guidance for asymptomatic cases as above.</p>	<p>Positive case in the household: No need for PCR test (temporary change) Test using lateral flow tests every morning for 7 days before leaving the house and report to Gov.uk website daily. Provide confirmation of this to school before the start of the school day. If positive result, follow guidance for asymptomatic cases as above.</p>
<p>Visitors to school Visitors must keep a social distance and wear a mask on premises at all times</p>	<p>Visitors to school Essential visitors only Visitors must notify school in advance of the visit Visitors must provide evidence of a negative lateral flow test taken before the visit (confirmation of negative result from Gov.uk website) Visitors must keep a social distance and wear a mask on premises at all times</p>
<p>Key Workers Evidence needed for parents/carers who are key workers (e.g. identity badge/official confirmation of name of employer etc)</p>	<p>Key Workers Evidence needed for parents/carers who are key workers (e.g. identity badge/official confirmation of name of employer etc) Parents/carers new to school will need to provide evidence All parents to review key worker list to ensure their child is eligible in the unlikely event of a move to remote learning</p>

Ending Self-Isolation Early Infographic

