



15th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID-19 INCREASE IN CASES ACROSS ALL YEAR GROUPS

After consultation with the DFE and local public health we have received updated information. Today, reported positive and suspected Covid-19 cases have increased across **all** year groups.

The additional measure of isolation outlined in the information below has been checked with the DFE and advised by Doncaster Council for all Doncaster schools due to high rates of infection in the borough. Richmond Hill will implement this additional measure from today. This measure is to help us reduce transmission and the risk of infection that is currently affecting our school community.

The following measures will also remain in place:

- The wearing of face coverings by all parents/visitors on site.
- The wearing of face coverings by all members of staff in communal areas.
- Handwashing/sanitising will take place on entry into classrooms and throughout the day
- Dining hall will have designated tables for year groups.
- Staff meetings will be virtual.
- All singing except for the sessions/choir with Mr & Mrs Mellors will be restricted to outdoors (The risk assessment for the sessions with Mr & Mrs Mellors will resume with social distancing/spacing in the hall).
- Maintain ventilation.
- Maintain cleaning - surfaces/handles.

Additional measure:



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In the weeks leading up to half term, we have seen large increases in the number of children and young people testing positive for COVID-19. Several of our schools have seen outbreaks that have disrupted education. We have also seen children catching COVID-19 in schools and passing it on to their families and friends.

This is very different from the situation last year, when we were seeing transmission in communities but very little in schools. Locally, the number of admissions to hospital has increased and our rates of infection in people over 60, who are more vulnerable to severe illness, remain high.

Even if adults are not ill enough to need hospital care, many are absent from work because they have caught COVID-19 from their children, or because they need to care for unwell children.

Staff absence is putting severe pressure on local NHS and social care services and risks affecting their ability to care for people with COVID-19 and other illnesses.

COVID-19

There have been some recent changes in the [guidance](#) on managing outbreaks of COVID-19 in schools. You may notice some differences if your child's school experiences an outbreak. This may include - your child may be asked to

do a PCR test if there are a high number of cases in the school and children in year 7 and above may be asked to do a one-off Lateral Flow Test (LFT) or daily LFTs for up to 7 days.

We are also making a local recommendation in situations where there is a positive COVID-19 case in your household, children should stay at home. The steps are described in the box below.

There is a higher risk of a child testing positive if a person in their household has tested positive. If there is a **positive person (e.g. Parent or sibling) in your household** we are recommending that your child or children stay at home:

- If your child has symptoms or develops symptoms on day 1 or 2, they should get a PCR test straight away
- If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test **on day 3, 4 or 5** after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms)
- If this test is negative, the child can return to school and complete LFT tests for the remaining isolation period of the household contact
- If the child develops symptoms at a later date, they must stay home and PCR test again

This applies to primary and secondary age children. [PCR test kits](#) and [LFT test kits](#) can be

ordered online. Any pupil who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days, and 12–16-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago, will be exempt from this.

Parents and carers who still want their child to continue to attend school have the right for them to do so. We hope that most parents will understand the reasons behind the request and will feel able to support the school. If a parent is not able to support the school in this request, we would still strongly advise that their child obtains a PCR test before returning to school.

We will continue to monitor Covid-19 reported cases and our risk assessment as we work closely with local public health over the next few days.

Please continue to report positive/suspected Covid-19 cases to covid@richmond.doncaster.sch.uk and all other absences to absence@richmond.doncaster.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker
Principal

The Rose Learning Trust.



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