



Update: 25 February 2022

Dear Students, Parents / Guardians / Carers and Staff

COVID-19 Update

You will no doubt have been following closely the announcements made by the Government this week to end the majority of COVID-19 restrictions. This communication summarises the Government's main points as they affect schools and colleges, and key changes to our protocols. Updated government guidance can be accessed using the following links:

[FE Operational Guidance - Feb 22](#)

[COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - Feb 22](#)

[COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19](#)

Asymptomatic Testing - Lateral Flow Device Testing

The guidance that staff and students in most education and childcare settings should undertake twice weekly testing has been removed with immediate effect. From 28th February, we will no longer be distributing LFD tests. However, there remains a requirement that secondary aged pupils or older in Special Schools, alternative provision settings and SEND units within mainstream schools or further education colleges should continue to test twice weekly. SEND students within Inclusive Learning at Peterborough College and Skills for Work and Living at Stamford College can still access LFD test kits and are encouraged to continue to test twice weekly. Students are reminded to log their COVID-19 test results on the Student Hub and NHS system. Guidance on how to record results can be found on the Student Hub [Here](#)

Tracing close contacts and isolation

From the 24th February, there is no legal requirement to self-isolate after a positive test or for those over 18 who are not vaccinated to isolate for 10 days. However, anyone with COVID-19 should not attend campus while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both test results are negative, they should return to campus, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. Those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at-risk group, including if they live in the same household. We all have a duty to protect vulnerable people in society, including those who attend or work in schools and colleges. The current advice from the Department for Education (DfE) outlines that institutions can refuse access to campus if students have any of the three COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed case of COVID-19.



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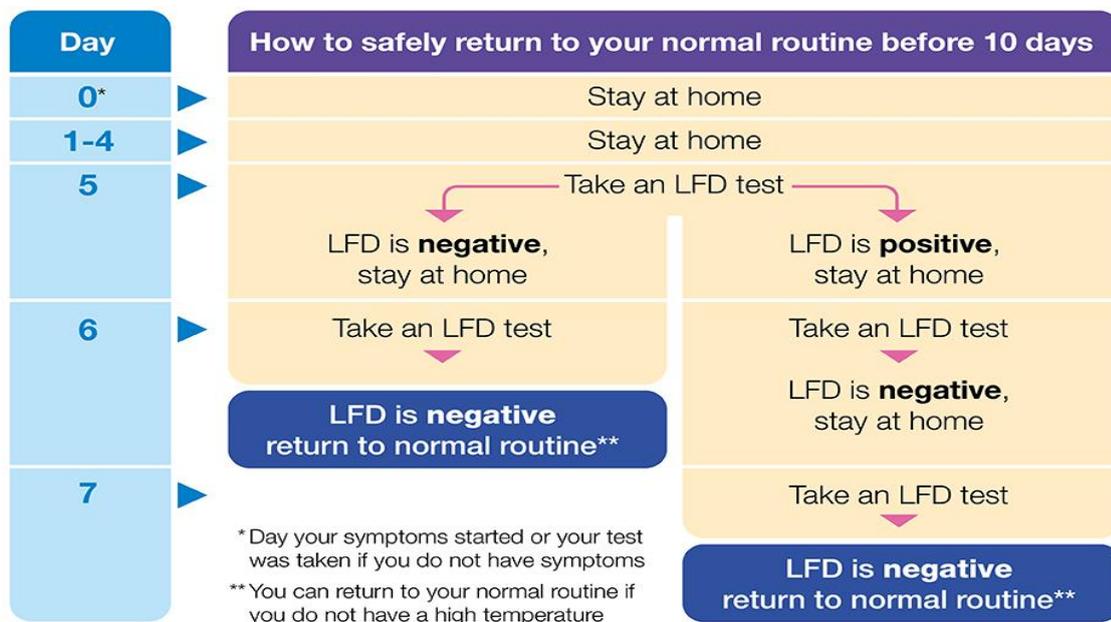
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- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer have to test daily for 7 days, and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.

Routine contact tracing will end. Contacts of positive cases will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Lateral flow tests remain available to families and can be [ordered here](#).

How to return to your normal routine before 10 days



Further guidance expected

From the 1st April, the Government will update the steps that anyone with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. We expect further guidance on how to deal with suspected COVID-19, but in the meantime Local Authority and Public Health Guidance is that individuals affected should isolate at home for five days.

Face Coverings

In line with Local Authority and Public Health advice we are continuing to recommend that students wear a face covering when travelling to campus on college transport as rates of Covid-19 are still high locally. However, we and our transport operators understand that this is a matter of personal choice, and we will respect any student's decision not to wear one.

Control Measures

The general measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 remain in place until 1st April. Individuals can still reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19 by:

- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors, or by meeting outside
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet, when rates of transmission are high
- Trying to stay at home if you are unwell
- Taking a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive
- Washing your hands and following advice to *Catch it, Bin it, Kill it*

Most importantly, all eligible adults and children should get vaccinated in accordance with national guidelines. More information on how to get a vaccine can be found on the NHS website. Students registered with a GP can book their appointment at a larger vaccination centre, a community pharmacy run site or at some GP run sites through the National Booking Service website if 18 or over or by phoning 119. Individuals can request to book COVID-19 vaccination appointments as an unregistered patient through a local GP practice.

As the Prime Minister made clear, the pandemic is not over – we are just moving into a new phase of learning to live with it in our daily lives and taking the necessary precautions to prevent its spread.

Thank you for your cooperation.



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