



November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back, I hope that you have all had a wonderful half term break.

I wanted to write to you as we have been advised that there have been some changes to the guidance issued by Doncaster Public Health Team, this is due to the increase in numbers of children and young people testing positive for COVID-19.

### **Local changes to rules on household contacts**

Doncaster Public Health have advised that, in this period of high cases within our local area, if someone in your household has tested positive for COVID- 19 using LFD or PCR test, then pupils/students should stay at home and follow the steps below as there is a higher risk of children testing positive if a person (parent or sibling) within their household has tested positive.

- 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.**

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.

Public Health are also encouraging household members to undertake twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly. To order LFD kits <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



**Please remain vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19.** Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test. Tests can be ordered or booked here: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or by calling 119.

**Public Health Doncaster will review this advice to schools at the end of November.**

### **Additional Winter Advice**

**Norovirus**, also known as the Winter Vomiting Bug is a virus that often circulates in winter and causes diarrhoea and vomiting.

- Promote handwashing at home and when arriving home from school with soap and water and good hand drying. Wet, washed hands spread germs.
- Remember that hand sanitiser is resistant to Norovirus infection
- If your child has an episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting they should not return to school until they are 2 days (48 hours) free of any symptoms.

**Influenza (Flu)** is likely to be circulating along with other respiratory infections this winter.

- All children aged 2-16 are eligible for the nasal spray flu vaccine, your child may receive this at school so look out for consent forms
- Children who test negative for COVID-19 should not come back to school until they are at least 24 hours clear of a fever and are feeling well enough to return to school.
- Ensure your child has tissues and knows how to "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it"

We have an exciting term ahead of us as we lead up to Christmas, and whilst we are eager to invite parents/carers into our academies to join in events this may not be possible once again this year due to the increase in cases.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support to our pupils and school communities during this challenging time, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**B A Nixon**  
CEO & National Leader of Education