



25th February 2022

Important Communication from the CEO

Dear Parents/carers

Following communications from Doncaster Public Health about the Prime Ministers announcement earlier this week about the lifting of restrictions, I wanted to provide you an update on how we will approach this within our academies.

Whilst we are all eager to return to our normal school environment, academies will approach step down measures in a managed phase, academies will communicate any changes with you.

The rates of infection within our Trust is extremely low, and we are hopeful that by taking this cautious approach it will reduce the chances of further outbreaks within our academies

Doncaster Public Health have provided the following guidance for parents and carers about living with Covid

From 21 February 2022 in England, staff and students in most education and childcare settings are no longer asked to test twice a week.

From 24 February 2022:

- Whilst the legal requirement to self isolate has been removed, adults and children who test positive for Covid-19 continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five days and continue to follow this advice until they have received two negative LFT test results on consecutive days
- There is no longer a requirement for close contacts to undertake daily testing or self-isolate if unvaccinated. New guidance will set out precautions for reducing risk to yourself and others.

Although the remaining Covid-19 restrictions are being lifted, they would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers around the general principles and expectations for preventing and limiting the spread of common childhood illnesses in school settings.

Staying home when unwell Your child should not come to school if they are feeling unwell. For some illnesses, there are recommended periods for children to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders. Some examples are provided in the table below and a full list is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>



Illness	Recommended exclusion period	Advice
Chickenpox	Until all vesicles (spots) have crusted over	
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment	
Measles	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination
Scarlet fever	Child can return 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment	
Mumps	Exclude child for five days after onset of swelling	Preventable by vaccination
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	
Covid-19	Advised to stay home for 5 days and LFT test on day 6 and 7	Vaccinations will be available
Whooping cough	48 hours from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination.
Head lice	None	Treatment recommended where live lice have been seen
Threadworms	None	Treatment recommended for child and household contacts

Immunisation

Many childhood diseases can be prevented through vaccination. If your child is due for a vaccination or missed one, this can be organised through the child's GP. This is particularly important if you are planning to travel abroad where prevalence may be higher. Information here: [Vaccinations and when to have them](#)

A Covid-19 vaccination programme for 5-11 year olds has recently been announced and information about arranging vaccinations will be shared shortly. The vaccine programme for anyone aged 12 or over remains available, booking information is available here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Vaccines are most important for the small number of children and young people who are likely to get poorly with Covid-19, invitation to vaccination will be sent by GPs for this group of children.



Exceed Learning Partnership

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Edlington Lane
Doncaster
South Yorkshire DN12 1PL

T 01709 805175

F 01709 869936

E admin@exceedlearningpartnership.com

www.exceedlearningpartnership.co.uk

Good hygiene practice

Handwashing is one of the most important ways of controlling the spread of infections, especially those that cause diarrhoea and vomiting, and respiratory illnesses. Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals.

Coughing and sneezing easily spread infections. Children should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, wash their hands and disposing of tissues in the bin.

General advice remains to reduce the spread of Covid 19 and other infectious illnesses:

- Letting fresh air in if gathering indoors, or move gatherings outdoors
- Wearing a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet. Face coverings and face masks will continue to be required in health and care settings, this includes hospitals and GP surgeries and any visits to care homes

I would once again like to thank you for helping our Trust to successfully manage COVID; I am extremely proud of everyone within our academies, including staff members, parents/carers and pupils on how well we managed the pandemic ensuring that our children were able to continue with their learning.

Yours sincerely

Beryce Nixon
CEO
National Leader of Education