

19 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Living with Covid

As you may be aware, HM Government's stated "objective in the next phase of the COVID-19 response is to enable the country to manage COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses"¹. As such, the guidance given to schools has changed. The principal guidance is now derived from the UK Health Security Agency's ***Health protection in education and childcare settings***, updated on 11 April 2022².

I am writing to outline the main points of Mayflower High School's approach to living with Covid.

Ventilation

- Improving ventilation will remain a focus for the long term, to reduce the risk of transmission of airborne viruses and to aid concentration in the classroom.
- Members of staff at Mayflower High School will be encouraged to let fresh air in when in an indoors setting.

Face Coverings

- Although face coverings are no longer recommended in educational settings, any student will be able to wear a face covering in any part of the premises, should they so wish.

Asymptomatic Testing

- Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in educational settings such as ours.
- We have been instructed to retain any remaining stock of asymptomatic testing kits in case of any recommended outbreak testing by our local health protection agencies.
- These kits will **not** be issued to any member of staff or student.

Isolation/Absence - Students

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- They are advised to return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to do so.
- If a child or young person has a positive Covid-19 test result, they are advised to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other **people for 3 days after the day they took the test.**
- Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has a positive Covid-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

¹ HM Government, *COVID-19 Response: Living with COVID-19*, 23 February 2022. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19#introduction>

² UK Health Security Agency, *Health protection in education and childcare settings*, 11 April 2022. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

- There will be no requirement for parents and carers to report positive cases of Covid-19 to the school. Parents and carers should use the standard online method to report an absence on the school's website.

If you have any queries about these points, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Rowlands
Acting Deputy Headteacher