

Ryders Hayes School
Covid Frequently Asked Questions- September 2021

National Guidance States: Neither people who have been fully vaccinated; nor those under 18 years of age are required to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case. At Ryders Hayes School we have conducted our own risk assessments and the following COVID guidance needs to be followed, **some of which goes further than the national guidance**, in order to protect our pupils, families, and staff.

We hope to avoid or at least minimise any outbreaks and ask families to support us in the approaches. Please read this guide carefully.

If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

Yes. The Government recommends that all members of the household get a PCR test.

This enhanced measure would be invoked should cases rise in school:

Children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school if they have no symptoms. ***Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the school risk assessment to protect pupils and staff.***

If my child is identified as a close contact from the community, can they come to school?

Yes, if they do not have symptoms. The child should get a PCR test outside the school day where possible.

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?

The child will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?

That child will self isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS test and trace.

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of COVID.

What happens if lots of children at school test positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes and would involve the re-introduction of some enhanced measures.

What happens if the staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. The children will either be taught by a cover member of staff or supply teacher; or if the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely into the classroom. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be teaching remotely and will be resting and recovering.

If my child is self-isolating, will they get work?

Yes. We will implement our remote education plan for any child self-isolating at home and if they are well enough, we will expect them to complete all work set and submit this via Google Classroom or Seesaw. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will children be in bubbles?

Although no longer a requirement, we are keeping children in year group bubbles for most of the week including break and lunch (apart from a KS2 assembly once a week and whole school assembly once a half term); we have managed to do this as part of our timetabling without it affecting our provision. There will be some mixing of some children where appropriate – e.g. buddy readers, intervention groups, sports clubs.

Will school let us know if there is a positive case?

We will aim to keep parents informed and contact those directly affected by a positive case. We may also include general updates for parents

If a parent has been a close contact and is not required to self isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions.

As well as getting a PCR test, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask on the school site
- Keep physical distance from other families and staff

NHS suggest:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in twice weekly LFT testing

This advice applies while the person who tested positive with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

In all circumstances – please keep school updated about any symptoms, close contacts notified by NHS Test and Trace, or positive cases.

If you have any other questions, please email s.bagg1@ryders-hayes.co.uk