



The Best That We Can Be
Devonshire Primary Academy

Devonshire Road, Blackpool, FY3 8AF

Tel: 01253 478271

Email: admin@devonshire.blackpool.sch.uk

Website: www.devonshire.blackpool.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr D.P. Simm BA (Hons) PGCE



Company registered by guarantee
Registered in England No: 08597962

Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since returning to school earlier this month, we have taken a number of phone calls enquiring about how Covid-19 is being managed this term. Therefore, further to my previous letter, I have detailed below a summary of the latest guidance and the procedures we are currently following.

Government Changes to National Self-Isolation Guidance

Government guidance states that, from Monday 16 August, people who are fully vaccinated (double jabbed), or aged under 18 years and 6 months, are no longer legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. Instead, this group of people are advised (but not legally required) to get a PCR test, unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms, must get a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate until the result is available. If the PCR test is returned positive, the self-isolation period must continue.

Some likely scenarios are described below, along with our advice:

1. "What should I do if my child develops Covid-19 symptoms?"

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged online via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>, or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access. Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school. Please contact school to inform us your child has Covid-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a Covid-19 test.

2. "What should I do if my child receives a positive Covid-19 PCR test result?"

Anyone with Covid-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the symptoms began, or
- 10 days after their test day if they have no symptoms

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home, except for those providing essential care.



Please contact school immediately to inform us your child has received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result. It is very important you let us know if your child has confirmed Covid-19 so that we can monitor the number of children with Covid-19 across the school.

Your child's class teacher will arrange school work for your child to complete at home.

3. "What should my child do if members of our household have Covid-19 symptoms or have received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result?"

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of Covid-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of/change in normal sense of taste or smell), they do not have to self-isolate as a contact.

Instead, they are advised (but not legally required) to have a PCR test, unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. If you do opt to have your child tested for Covid-19, and following guidance on '*How to Stay Safe and Help Prevent the Spread of the Disease*', we do ask that your child self-isolates whilst waiting for the result of your their PCR test. Ordinarily, results are back within 24 hours.

- If the PCR test result is negative, your child can return to school immediately.
- If the PCR test result is positive, please follow the guidance in Question 2 and the guidance issued in the NHS notification you will receive.

If you are unable to get your child to/from school as you are required to self-isolate, and have no family member/friend to assist, your child should remain at home with you. Your child's class teacher will arrange school work for your child to complete at home.

4. "What should I do if my child is a close contact of someone that has received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result?"

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of Covid-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of/change in normal sense of taste or smell), they do not have to self-isolate as a contact.

Instead, they are advised (but not legally required) to have a PCR test, unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. If you do opt to have your child tested for Covid-19, and following guidance on '*How to Stay Safe and Help Prevent the Spread of the Disease*', we do ask that your child self-isolates whilst waiting for the result of your their PCR test. Ordinarily, results are back within 24 hours.

- If the PCR test result is negative, your child can return to school immediately.
- If the PCR test result is positive, please follow the guidance in Question 2 and the guidance issued in the NHS notification you will receive.

Please note, children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test as a close contact, unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

5. "What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?"

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated (double jabbed).

6. "What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection, but does not have symptoms of Covid-19?"

Your child should not take a Covid-19 PCR test unless they have symptoms of Covid-19. However, you may wish to take a lateral flow device test, to put your mind at ease.

If your child is unwell with another illness, they should not attend school whilst they are unwell. If you are concerned, you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, who will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise, we would recommend your child remains at home for 48 hours, or until they are symptom free. Please contact school to inform us your child will not be attending.

Plans for Covid-19 testing in Secondary Schools

There are no plans to carry out any Covid-19 testing in primary schools.

All secondary school pupils (Year 7 and above) will be offered the opportunity to test twice-weekly at home using lateral flow device tests provided by their school. This testing programme will continue until the end of September, when it will be reviewed.

Accessing Covid-19 Testing in Blackpool

PCR tests can be booked at any of the DHSC run sites that operate Monday – Sunday, 8:00am – 8:00pm on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>, or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

I hope this information will help to clear up any confusion and assist you moving forward.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D.P. Simm
Headteacher