



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year!

Since the end of term and during the last few days, the Government have updated both national and educational guidance regarding Covid 19.

Below we have highlighted some of the changes, as well as included reminders regarding previous communications.

LFD Testing – Arrangements for LFD testing remain as outlined in our communications from December, with onsite testing taking place on Tuesday 5th January. We also ask families to follow the national guidance regarding the use of LFD tests at home; taking regular tests twice weekly and reporting the results of these as advised. If your child does test positive, please follow the guidance regarding isolation and confirmatory PCR testing. We also ask that you inform your child's Pastoral Manager of any positive result.

The current guidance also states *Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.*

Isolation periods - Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. LFD tests can now be taken on day 6 and day 7 of the self-isolation period. If you receive two negative test results, you are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. If this is the case and your child is able to return to the Academy please inform your child's Pastoral Manager.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the: [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#)

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19 - People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Face coverings in education settings – In addition to the guidance in place at the end of last module where face coverings were worn on public transport and in indoor communal areas across the Academy by staff, visitors and students, unless exempt, the latest government guidance is that from the start of this module it is recommended

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that face coverings are worn in classrooms where students in Year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support students and teachers as they return to school this term. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26th January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed. **We will therefore expect all students to wear a face covering in classrooms and examination rooms unless they are exempt.**

We will share, with students, guidance on the use of face coverings on their return. We ask that students come to school with an appropriate face covering from the start of the module. They should also have a clean bag in which this can be kept when not in use i.e. in PE or outside.

General precautions – We will continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene as well as ensure appropriate levels of ventilation alongside all other guidance. If your child has any symptoms of Covid 19, they should follow national guidance regarding isolation and not attend school. If this is the case, please inform your child's Pastoral Manager.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to the Academy and will keep you updated of any changes that may come into place.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson

Headteacher

