

COVID-19

Foreland Fields School Statement – April 2022

Free and routine COVID-19 testing in schools and across wider society ended on the 1st April. As a school we are no longer required to record registers of cases or test results for staff or pupils. As of 1st April the Governments document, 'schools COVID-19 operational guidance' was withdrawn.

"Following expert advice, we now know that Covid presents a low risk of serious illness to most children and young people, and most of those who are fully vaccinated. Due to high immunity in society, a greater understanding of the virus and improved access to treatments, we can now focus on how we live with COVID-19. This means we don't expect pupils or staff in education settings to routinely test themselves for COVID-19".

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/03/30/living-with-covid-the-end-of-routine-testing-in-schools-colleges-and-childcare-settings/>

All staff and pupils/students should follow the NHS advice below:

What to do if you have tested positive for COVID

If you have COVID-19, you can pass on the virus to other people for up to 10 days from when your infection starts. Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days.

You should:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days
- avoiding meeting people at higher risk from COVID-19 for 10 days, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, even if they've had a COVID-19 vaccine

This starts from the day after you did the test.

If a child or young person aged 18 or under tests positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test.

Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults. If they're well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there's a much lower risk that they'll pass on COVID-19 to others.

If you are feeling unwell and do not test positive or test negative for COVID-19

If you do not feel well enough to go to work and do your normal activities, you should:

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people
- avoid meeting people at higher risk from COVID-19, especially if their immune system means they're at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, even if they've had a COVID-19 vaccine

You can go back to your normal activities if you:

- feel well enough to do so
- do not have a high temperature

Foreland Fields school still has in place baseline infection prevention and control measures that will help to manage the spread of infection:

- Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of national vaccination programmes including COVID-19 and flu.
- Ensuring occupied spaces are **well-ventilated** and let fresh air in.
- Reinforcing **good hygiene** practices such as hand washing and cleaning.

The continued programme of vaccination

From 1st April the in-school COVID-19 vaccination programme will come to an end. However, 12 to 15 year olds will still be able to access the vaccine outside of schools at a vaccination centre, pharmacy or walk-in centre. Parents can book a Covid-19 vaccination appointment online or by speaking to their GP or calling 119. Alternatively, they can find a walk-in Covid-19 vaccination site.

From April, healthy 5-11 year olds will also be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccinations will take place outside of schools in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GPs and walk-in centres. Parents of 5-11 year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information. Online bookings for 5-11 year olds will open in April.

Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and adults

The school will continue to make dynamic risk assessment decisions regarding the support of pupils/students and staff who are at higher risk from COVID-19. This might mean ensuring that staff/students returning from having COVID-19 are not placed alongside vulnerable pupils/staff for the full 10-day period to minimise the chance of transmission.

In the event of an outbreak the staff will revert to the appropriate elements of the school COVID-19 contingency plan published in version 2.7 of the school COVID-19 risk assessment.