



# George Spicer Primary School

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Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## **COVID19 Procedures Clarification**

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to write to you to make clear what our procedures are surrounding COVID-19 symptoms and tests and what to do.

I am aware that some conflicting information has been sent out and feel it is important to clarify so we all know what to do. The information I have seen in the most recent Public Health briefing is that whilst cases in the Enfield area have been falling they are still most frequent in school age children. Whilst children experience either mild or no symptoms, I also have a duty of care to the adults within our community and we have to put measures in place to stop or limit the spread of infection.

Already this term, we have had to implement an outbreak management plan and have been directed to move a year group to remote learning by the Director of Public Health. This is something we and I am sure you, are keen to avoid.

### **Government Guidance**

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household. *If they are identified as a school close contact then we would recommend a rapid lateral flow test.*

If your child has any COVID-19 symptoms then please get them to take a rapid lateral flow test. **Children displaying symptoms should not attend school.** If the lateral flow test is negative then the child can come into school when they are well enough to do so and displaying limited or mild symptoms.

Children with a positive rapid lateral flow test result should self-isolate in line with COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. They will also need to get a free [PCR test](#) to check if they have COVID-19.

If parents choose **not to take a PCR test** for their child **then the child will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the positive LF test result.**

While awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within **2 days** of the positive rapid lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the rapid lateral flow test and they can return to the setting, as long as the individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

If the lateral flow test is negative then the child can come into school when they are well enough to do so and/or displaying limited or no symptoms.



If a parent or carer insists on their child attending school, I have the right to refuse admission if, in my reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. This is where I am asking for your understanding, co-operation and support.

### **When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test**

Children, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#). They should not come into the setting if they have [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in your setting develops [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#), however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

### **When to self-isolate**

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible, if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – [find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#)

### **When you do not need to self-isolate**

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- [get a PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)

### **My child has a cough, cold and a temperature – what should I do?**

It is that time of year unfortunately and in the good old days, like you, I would dose up my child on



calpol and hope for the best; but as these are COVID-19 symptoms, and it is not the good old days, then please do a rapid lateral flow test and keep your child at home.

If the test is negative, your child can return to school when they are well enough to do so. Continue daily LF tests until symptoms are no more.

If the test is positive then they need to take a PCR – if this comes back negative then the child can return to school when they are well enough to do so.

[You can order rapid lateral flow tests using this link.](#)

I hope this helps to clarify the school position and once again, I would like to say thank you to you all for your continued patience, understanding and support. I hope that by us all working together we can keep each other as safe as possible so that your children can attend school regularly and they are not picking up the virus and passing this on to you at home so you can carry on working and living as normally as possible.

Kind regards



Mr D Spong  
**Headteacher**

*"Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there."* –  
**Virginia Burden**

