

August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 information letter for the new school term

1. What will happen when there is a case of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in school?

- Whole classes will no longer be asked to self isolate if someone in the class tests positive for COVID-19.
- Your child will only be identified as a contact if they have had **prolonged** close contact with the case – e.g. same household, overnight stays.
- There will be no requirement for you or your child to self-isolate **unless you are contacted by Test and Protect**.
- All close contacts of the case **who need to take specific actions** will be identified, contacted and advised by Test and Protect to follow the latest guidance on self-isolation and testing which was updated from August 9th 2021 for: -
 - adults who are fully vaccinated, who do not have symptoms and who have not tested positive; and
 - children and young people aged under 18 who do not have symptoms and who have not tested positive.

Further information on the latest self-isolation requirements can be found on the NHS Inform website at: www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19 or [Translations \(nhsinform.scot\)](http://www.nhsinform.scot/translations) for accessible, easy read formats or other languages.

2. Regular testing

- Regular testing even when you don't have symptoms can help keep you and your school community safe.
- If your child is at secondary school, they can access free LFD tests from the school, to allow them to test twice-weekly at home as long as they have no symptoms. Please contact the school directly to ask about this if your child is having problems accessing tests.
- Please encourage your child to test twice-weekly, and to record all positive, negative or void results on the online reporting portal at: www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19-report-your-test-result.
- In addition, you and the rest of your family, including primary school-aged children, can access free test kits through the Universally Accessible Testing programme, which is available to everyone in Scotland. Free at-home LFD test kits are available for collection from COVID test centres or pharmacies, or delivery by ordering online. www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms.

3. Book a test if you or your child develop symptoms

- Please be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19 they must not attend school. They should stay at home, self-isolate and get tested for COVID-19. Find out more on [NHS Inform](#).
- All other household members of your child (including yourself) must also stay at home and follow the latest guidance, which can be found on [NHS Inform](#). In the event of a positive result, Test and Protect will contact you to provide tailored advice on what to do.
- Book a test at [NHS Inform](#) for your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through, and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at [Gov.Scot](#). Or you can order a home PCR test kit [online](#), or by calling 119. A test will then be delivered to your home. To return you can either drop the test at your nearest priority post box, or if you are unable to go out, you can also call 119 to book a courier collection from your home.

4. How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. Do:

- Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found on [NHS inform](#).
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.
- Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home
- Be vigilant for COVID symptoms and self-isolate when you have COVID symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.

Further Information

For general Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions and information:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coronavirus-faq?age=0> and

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Yours sincerely



Linda de Caestecker

Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde