

Dulwich Hamlet

Junior School



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Headteacher: Mrs Claire Purcell

Friday 25th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re. Updated guidance on managing coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools

On 21st February 2022, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response.

Our priority at The Charter Schools Educational Trust and its schools is to ensure that we continue to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and enrichment activities to all pupils whilst ensuring that pupils and staff are safe. The Department for Education have issued updated guidance (24th February 2022) and we are sharing the main changes with you below:

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Public health advice for people with COVID-19 and their contacts changed from yesterday, 24th February 2022. Anyone identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 is no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests for seven days, and contact tracing has ended.

Face coverings

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas. Staff and pupils should follow wider advice on face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school. As of yesterday, 24th February, Transport for London (TfL) have advised that passengers will no longer need to wear masks on the tube and other transport across London.

However, TfL continues to strongly recommend masks are worn but will no longer make them mandatory.

Asymptomatic testing

As of Monday 21st February, all Trust staff and pupils in our secondary schools are no longer expected to continue taking part in regular (twice weekly) asymptomatic testing and should follow asymptomatic testing advice for the general population. Further information is available in the [NHS get tested for COVID-19 guidance](#).

In the event of a local outbreak, a school may be advised by their local health team or director of public health to undertake testing for staff and pupils of secondary age and above for a period of time.

Vaccination

Vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools and we recommend that all eligible pupils take up the offer of a vaccine where they can if they have not already done so. You can find local vaccination centres via this [LINK](#)

Suspected/Confirmed cases of COVID-19

Self-isolation for confirmed cases of COVID-19 is no longer legally required but is strongly advised in order to reduce the potential spread of the virus and any staff or pupils with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school, given the potential risk to others.

Anyone with suspected COVID-19 should follow the Public Health guidelines which can be found [HERE](#).

If anyone has a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should self-isolate for five days at least. If they test negative on day five and day six then they can return to school. If not then they should not return until they have two consecutive negative tests or day ten, whichever is the soonest.

PCR COVID tests will still be available to order for free for anyone with suspected COVID symptoms from the NHS until April 1st 2022, as will rapid LFD tests if they tested positive for COVID-19 and want to check if they are still infectious after 5 days.

Ongoing hygiene measures

Whilst the government guidelines have changed the Trust will continue to promote good hygiene and ventilation in schools to minimise any potential infection and ensure that pupils can continue to be safely in school and receiving their education without further disruption. These measures include:

- Encouraging regular and thorough handwashing
- 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' for sneezes, sniffles and coughs
- Increased ventilation in classrooms
- Continued enhanced daily cleaning

As we move from two years of the pandemic into a period where the virus is now becoming endemic, we will continue to work hard to minimise any future disruption to your children's education, and we appreciate the support that you have shown to date and undoubtedly will show in helping us to achieve this.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Purcell

Headteacher Dulwich Hamlet Junior School