

The Topsham School

A love of learning and commitment to the success of every child at the heart of all we do



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid Update: Testing and Isolation from Monday 28th February

The Department for Education has updated its various operational guidance documents for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirusoutbreak>

Information on testing and isolation is now contained in the newly-published UKHSA guidance for people with Covid-19 and their contacts. The UKHSA guidance is clear that, while there is no longer a legal requirement for people with Covid to self-isolate, if anyone has any of the main symptoms of Covid or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. These are the original Covid symptoms of persistent dry cough, high temperature and loss of taste/smell.

Key points from the UKHSA document (which we are following) are as follows:

- If you have any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you wait for the test result.
- If you test positive, you should continue to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. This includes not attending school or work.
- If possible, you should let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result.
- Students with Covid-19 should not attend school while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from five days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.



• If you live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has Covid-19, you are advised (for ten days after the day the person you live or stayed with first had symptoms, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) to:

- minimise contact with the person who has Covid-19
- work from home if possible (this does not include school age children; they can continue to come to school)
- avoid contact with anyone you know who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with Covid-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system
- limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly-ventilated spaces
- wear a face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where you are in close contact with other people
- Children who live with someone with Covid-19 should attend school as normal

If a child in school presents with Covid symptoms we will isolate them and request that parents collect them for a PCR test.

To summarise the various changes and new expectations from Monday, 28th February:

- The national changes could result in noticeably increased transmission of Covid, a moderate and/or temporary increase, or no increase at all.
- Twice-weekly testing - and therefore reporting negative results to Test Register – stops.
- Please report absence in the usual way, and give dates and details of symptoms and tests if related to Covid-19.
- If your child has Covid symptoms, please book a PCR test and keep them off school until you have the result.
- If the PCR test (or a LFT) is positive, please stay away from school for at least five days until there have been two successive negative LFTs, or the eleventh day at the latest.
 - Face masks are no longer required in school. However, as a school our staff will continue to wear any protective items as deemed needed by the individual or in line with the schools RA100. Parents are asked to be mindful of staff as we continue to be mindful of our parents, some of whom we know remain vulnerable.
- Hand sanitising and table-wiping will continue.
- Ventilation of rooms will continue.

We have now received updated guidance from the Local Authority and will be using this to update the schools RA100. This will be completed ASAP and once complete shared with parents, including any changes within the school day such as mixing of bubbles at break and lunch times.

Should there be a significant outbreak of cases within the school or locally, and only with Public Health advice, restrictions may be reintroduced for a temporary period. Again, we will notify parents if this is the case.

As ever, thank you for your continuing patience, understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pipe

