



Athersley South Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will now be aware, the government has set out next steps for living with Covid. Local testing centres have been removed/reduced and if anyone needs/wants a test they will be charged. Therefore, below is the most up-to-date guidance and procedures school will follow based on the guidance of DFE and the NHS. Please note this is all lifted straight from guidance and when it says 'we', this is a reference to the Government.

The latest guidance states:

- Free COVID-19 tests will continue to be available to help protect specific groups including eligible patients and NHS and care staff once the universal testing offer ends on 1 April
- Plans are in place to enable a rapid testing response should a new health threat emerge, such as a new variant of concern
- Vaccines and treatments mean we can transition to managing COVID-19 like other respiratory illnesses, with updated guidance published on 1 April
- From 1 April, updated guidance advises people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.
- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

Why does it no longer recommend Covid testing in schools, colleges or other education settings?

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.

That means **we don't expect pupils or staff in education settings to routinely test themselves for COVID-19.**

Outbreak testing will be available in residential SEND settings where it is advised by the local health protection team, especially to counteract the risk of closure due to staff absence

Should my child still go to their childcare or education setting if they test positive for Covid?

No. From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious. **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be three days.**

Will my child's school or college still be taking measures to prevent Covid?

All settings should have 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.

NHS Guidance on an RTI: (Respiratory tract infections)

[Respiratory tract infections \(RTIs\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Check if you have an RTI

Symptoms of an RTI include:

- a cough – you may bring up mucus (phlegm)
- sneezing
- a stuffy or runny nose
- a [sore throat](#)
- [headaches](#)
- muscle aches
- breathlessness, tight chest or wheezing
- a high temperature
- feeling generally unwell

Further guidance and advice, when published, will be shared with you. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Sanderson