

28/02/22

Dear Parents / Carers,

### Re: Updated COVID-19 Guidance- 21 February 2022

As you will likely have seen in the news, the Government has confirmed its plan for '[Living with COVID](#)'. This letter today is to outline how the '[Living with COVID](#)' plan will affect how we operate across Dudley Academies Trust. The main changes are:

- Removal of the guidance for most of the academy population to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.
- Removal of the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive COVID-19 test.
- Removal of the legal requirement for those not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- No longer asking fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days.
- Ending routine contact tracing.
- Ending self-isolation support payments.

### Testing

Both learners and staff will no longer be asked to complete twice weekly COVID-19 asymptomatic testing **from Thursday 24 February**. As a result, no further lateral flow testing kits will be provided to learners or staff by the academy. Should you require additional test kits, these can now be ordered [online](#). Please remember that **lateral flow tests are only designed to be used where a person does not have symptoms of COVID-19**.

### Developing Symptoms of COVID-19

Where a learner or member of staff develops symptoms of COVID-19, it continues to be recommended that you arrange for a PCR test to be completed at a testing centre. This will remain the advice **up to 1 April 2022**, at which point the Government has indicated that mass testing will end. Where an individual tests positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test, it is recommended that they self-isolate in line with previously issued guidance. This, however, is no longer a legal requirement. Learners and staff who self-isolate will be able to return to their academy on **day 6** of their self-isolation period so long as they have **tested negative on a lateral flow test on day 5 and 6**. Tests must be taken **24 hours apart**. Remote learning will continue to be in place for any learner who is required to self-isolate.

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 whilst at the academy, they will continue to be sent home in line with previously established protocols. In this instance, we would recommend that they complete a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate until it is confirmed that they do not have COVID-19 or their self-isolation period ends.

## Dudley Academies Trust

Executive offices, Dudley College of Technology  
Priory Villa, 3a Ednam Road, Dudley, West  
Midlands, DY1 1HL

Chair of Board of Trustees: Lowell Williams  
Chief Executive: Jo Higgins



### Close Contacts

It remains the case that should your child or a member of your household be a close contact of a person who has tested positive, your child should continue to attend the academy as normal. If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should not attend the academy.

In addition to the above, our academies will continue to observe our current continuous measures as follows:

- Regular hand washing and follow 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' procedures
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
- Ventilation in classrooms therefore wherever possible, windows will be opened to aid good ventilation.
- Encouraging vaccination for learners and staff, where eligible
- Regular communication with the Trust community on current situation

The Trust and its academies continue to have a contingency plan in place outlining how we would operate in exceptional circumstances. This could mean us having to reintroduce face coverings in our academies, working in smaller "bubbles" and introducing enhanced cleaning regimes.

I hope that this information is helpful in keeping you up to date with the latest developments. Further updates to government guidance are due on 1 April and will review our current practice further then, in preparation for our return after the Easter holiday.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping to protect your academy's community.

Yours faithfully,

Jo Higgins  
Chief Executive



Sponsored by  
Dudley College of Technology

