



## Covid-19 School Updates

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the end of the summer term, the Government has continued to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of Covid-19. The Government has released updated guidance for school settings in response to the pandemic and as such have moved away from the more stringent restrictions that were in place during the last academic year in order to reduce the disruption to children's education.

Key messages from the Government guidance include:

- Nationally, education and childcare settings are open and attendance is mandatory for schools. All children must attend school unless they are ill.
- From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 18 years old (or double vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact has Covid-19. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue to come into school as long as they have no symptoms.
- If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms at home, they should stay at home and you must book a PCR test (NOT a Lateral Flow Test). If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test.
- Continuing to take regular rapid Lateral Flow tests will help to identify infections early and reduce transmission to others. Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral Flow tests.
- Schools will no longer trace close contacts – close contacts will still be identified via NHS Track and Trace
- Children who attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.
- Your child will not be required to remain in a consistent 'bubble' group.
- The requirement to wear a face covering in schools has been removed.
- We will continue to follow measures for good hand hygiene.
- We will ensure good ventilation is encouraged in school where practical.

I have attached a Covid-19 Contingency Plan which is a useful document showing measures that would be taken if single or multiple Covid-19 cases were identified or if there were rapidly rising cases in the locality.

I will continue to inform parents and carers of any changes to Covid-19 measures should these be needed.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.




Kind regards,



Lucy Eldridge




Head of Two Mile Ash School

# Two Mile Ash School

## Covid-19 Outbreak Contingency Plan – September 2021

<p><b>When should my child self-isolate or miss school?</b></p> 	 <b>NO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children <b>MUST</b> attend school unless they are ill.</li> <li>• From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a close contact, has Covid.</li> <li>• Instead, if they are a close contact, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative.</li> </ul>
	 <b>YES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should <b>stay at home</b> and should book a PCR test, <b>NOT</b> a Lateral Flow test.</li> <li>• If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and you should book them a PCR test.</li> <li>• If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.</li> </ul>

Community Covid Risk	Description	Actions
 <p><b>Low Community Transmission. No School Cases.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days.</li> <li>• Cases of Covid locally are low and/ or stable.</li> <li>• Hospitalisation/ Deaths due to Covid nationally are low.</li> </ul>	<p>No Covid measures are necessary beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminding children of good hand-hygiene.</li> <li>• Ensuring good ventilation encouraged where practical.</li> <li>• Ensuring children / staff to stay at home if they have Covid symptoms (and to book a PCR test).</li> <li>• Staff will continue to test themselves using Lateral Flow tests.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Rapidly Rising Community Transmission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No current Covid cases have been recorded at school, but...</li> <li>• Cases of Covid are rising rapidly in the community causing disruption to other local schools.</li> <li>• MK Public Health/ Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/ national infection wave.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ventilation of classrooms increased &amp; hand-washing supervised.</li> <li>• Large indoor public performance audience numbers reduced.</li> <li>• Face to face assemblies are replaced with virtual assemblies.</li> <li>• Clinically Vulnerable staff meet with Line-Managers to review their individual risk assessment &amp; discuss additional protection (e.g. use of face coverings, reduction in movement between classes/ groups).</li> </ul>

Number of Cases:	Description:	Actions:
 <p><b>A single child tests positive</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single child tests positive for Covid in a class.</li> <li>• There are fewer than 5 cases in the year group.</li> <li>• No other year groups are affected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The child self-isolates for 10 days. Remote learning will be provided if they are well enough to complete it.</li> <li>• The parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts.</li> <li>• Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track &amp; Trace and advised to book a PCR Test. The school will contact parents to advise this if close contacts are known.</li> <li>• <b>Children do not need to miss school or self-isolate whilst they wait for the result of the PCR test unless they have Covid symptoms.</b></li> </ul>
 <p><b>5 children or staff within a year group test positive within 10 days of each other.</b></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>10% children or staff in a close group test positive within 10 days of each other.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been 5 or more cases of Covid across a year group within 10 days which could mean that Covid is spreading within that group of children or staff.</li> <li>• 10% of children or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period Eg. friendship group, sports club, after school activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>As above for each positive case.</b></li> <li>• The school will discuss the outbreak with MK Public Health Team and agree strengthening protective measures <u>for 10 school days</u>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-introducing staff face masks for corridors &amp; communal areas.</li> <li>○ Adapting, limiting or postponing indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances.</li> <li>○ Reverting to virtual assemblies in classrooms.</li> <li>○ Reducing the amount of classes staff work across.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
 <p><b>Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the measures indicated above, Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period with multiple classes and staff affected, suggesting that Covid is spreading widely throughout the school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact MK Public Health Team to agree further measures, <u>for a further 10 school days</u>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-introducing year group bubbles.</li> <li>○ Reverting to bubbles school lunches and allocated play areas.</li> <li>○ Limiting all non-essential visitors to school.</li> <li>○ Postponing all non-essential events.</li> <li>○ Re-introducing remote learning for individual classes for 10 school days</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

