

24th February 2022

Living with COVID-19

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 21st February, we are now entering a new phase of the pandemic and learning to live with COVID-19.

Whilst some measures will stay, and others can be stepped or down as needed, the overarching principle is to reduce, but not eliminate transmission.

We have tried to make the updated guidance as clear as possible by outlining what is changing and what remains the same on the next page. The guidance that this is based upon is: <u>COVID-19</u>: <u>people with COVID-19</u> and <u>their contacts</u> published on 24th February.

Whilst COVID-19 self-isolation rules, in line with other infectious diseases, have now been removed from law, for anyone with any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

The guidance linked above also mentions that other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause. If you are concerned about your or your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, contact 111 or speak to your GP. In an emergency dial 999.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead where we can hopefully resume some of the events we had planned previously such as inviting parents in to see the new classrooms and to share in children's learning as well as planning the school's 180th anniversary later this year.

As always, if we can be of any help, support or if you need to talk anything through, please email admin@ashchurch.gloucs.sch.uk or call 01684 292376 and we will do our best to help.

Mr Gibson & Mr Rickaby









No change

Anyone who has recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, sense of taste or smell

should <u>order a PCR test</u> and is advised to stay at home, avoiding contact with other people whilst waiting for the result.

If their PCR result is negative, they can return to school when they feel better and have had no temperature for 24 hours.

If the PCR is positive, the child should not attend school for a minimum of 5 full days.

They should LFD test from day 5 (24 hours apart each time) and can return when they have 2 consecutive negative results (or after the maximum 10 days of isolation if the LFD is still positive).

We will continue to promote hand washing and good respiratory hygiene in school (catch it, bin it, kill it).

We will maximise ventilation wherever possible.

Changes

No regular LFD testing for adults or children.

There will be no routine contact tracing at all. Close contacts are no longer advised to LFD daily and unvaccinated contacts are no longer required to self-isolate.

The school can now only order LFD tests during an outbreak. The primary sources for getting them are via local pharmacies or ordering online.

Face coverings are no longer required or recommended for routine use in education settings (but remain a personal choice for those who wish to continue wearing them).

Children aged 5-11 in clinically at-risk groups or living with someone who is immunosuppressed are now eligible for vaccination.

All children aged 5-11 will be eligible for 2 vaccination doses starting in April.







