

# **Changes to measures and guidance for managing COVID-19 in education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April**

On Tuesday 29 March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in England from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

As of today, 1<sup>st</sup> April, free COVID-19 tests will be unavailable for the majority of people, only continuing to be available for specific groups.

## **Government Guidance**

The guidance we are now following is as follows:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Children and young people under 18 years of age who have a positive Covid test result, should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days.
- Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should 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.
- Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.
- The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

## Rules for School

- As and when we receive further guidance we will update these guidelines.
- Based on the above, if your child is unwell and has a positive Covid test result, please do not send your child back to school until they are well and do not have a high temperature, even if this is longer than the advised 3-day isolation period for Covid.
- We will no longer provide work at home for children with a positive Covid result as the absence from school is now only 3 days unless they are unwell with it, and in which case we would not expect a child to complete work anyway.
- If a parent has a positive Covid result then we continue to ask that you do not come onto the school site for the recommended 5 days of isolation and instead, ask another adult to drop off and collect your child. If this is not possible, then please contact the school office in advance and we can arrange for staff to meet you at the school gate to collect your child and return them to you at the end of the school day. This will minimise the chances of spreading Covid to other parents, children and staff.
- A reminder that if your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting, you must keep your child off school for 48 hours from the last incidence of diarrhoea or vomiting. We will send your child home if you send your child back to school earlier than this.