



Covid Parent Questions and Answers - September 2021

As we are all aware, Covid 19 has not gone away but guidance and restrictions have changed recently.

National Guidance States: People who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

At Skegness Infant and Junior Academies, we will follow the guidance but we have our own risk assessments and processes in place (**some of which go further than the national guidance**) to protect our pupils, families, and staff.

We hope to avoid any outbreaks and ask families to support us in the approaches. Please read this information carefully.

If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Therefore, children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend the setting as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the setting, but we may undertake additional precautions to mitigate the risk to other children, families and staff.

- If your child develops symptoms at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test and follow the guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

We will require you to let the academy office know if someone in the household is positive.

If my child is identified as a close contact from the community by the NHS, can they come to school?

Yes, if they do not have symptoms. The child should get a PCR test straight away. Although they can continue coming to school, parents may prefer to keep the child off until the PCR result comes back.

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?

The child with symptoms will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?

The child with symptoms will self-isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS test and trace. We will alert the parents/carers with children in the affected class. Under the new guidance, the NHS will carry out the track and trace for your child and you will be contacted if they need to isolate. Unless we have evidence that the NHS has been in touch with this advice, your child needs to come into school.

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. You can order the tests online here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of covid.

What happens if lots of children at school tests positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

What happens if the staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. The children may be taught by an alternative member of staff. If the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely into the classroom. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be teaching remotely and will be resting and recovering.

If my child is self-isolating, will they get work?

Yes. We will implement our remote education plan for any child self-isolating at home and if they are well enough, we will expect them to complete all work set and submit this via Microsoft Teams. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will children be in bubbles?

Although no longer a requirement, we are being vigilant with when children will mix. This is being kept to limited times at the moment. We are continuing to ensure good handwashing, ventilation and additional cleaning remain in place.

Will school let us know if there is a positive case?

We will aim to keep parents informed where there is a positive case of Covid identified within your child's class. The NHS are now overseeing the track and trace process and will be in touch with you if necessary.

If a parent has been identified as a close contact and is not required to self isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions.

As well as getting a PCR test, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask on the school site
- Keep physical distance from other families and staff

NHS suggest:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in twice weekly LFD testing

This advice applies while the person who tested positive with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

In all circumstances – please keep school updated about any symptoms, close contacts, or positive cases.

We hope this information answers some of the question you may have. We will update you on any further guidance as it happens. In the meantime, stay safe.

Kind regards

Skegness Infant and Junior Academies