

To Parents and Carers of pupils  
attending Portsmouth Schools

**Children, Families and  
Education**  
**Director: Sarah Daly**

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Dear Parent/Carer

## **UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

On Monday 21 February, the government confirmed that all remaining domestic COVID-19 restrictions will be removed. This will mean changes for children attending school and college, which are summarised below.

### **Testing**

Although regular testing of staff and students is no longer recommended, staff in education and childcare settings and students can still access test kits by ordering them online, from the local asymptomatic testing site at the Sommerstown Hub, or through your pharmacy. You can find information about testing in Portsmouth on our [website](#).

Regular testing is still advised for specialist special educational needs and disability (SEND) settings, alternative provision, and SEND units in mainstream schools or the equivalent in colleges.

Schools, nurseries and colleges may be advised by local public health professionals to recommend lateral flow device (LFD) tests to manage an outbreak.

### **Self-isolation**

From 24 February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. The government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for seven days, and routine contact tracing will end.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative LFD test results on consecutive days, 24 hours apart.

Staff, children and young people who are contacts should attend school, college or nursery as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless

they are able to work from home.

**If your child tests positive for COVID-19, or you suspect they have it**

If a child has 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.

If your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms, [order a PCR test](#) and stay at home while waiting for the result.

If your child tests positive, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative LFD test results on consecutive days, 24 hours apart.

As you will know, rates of Covid-19 in England and nationally have been dropping in recent weeks from the extremely high levels we saw in January. The government announced last week a number of changes which will affect you and your family.

Yours Sincerely



Sarah Daly-  
**Director of Children, Families and Education**  
**Portsmouth City Council**



Helen Atkinson FFPH  
**Director of Public Health**  
**Portsmouth City Council**