

Covid Update:

Dear parents/carers,

As you will be aware the government have announced some significant changes to in respect of Covid and the next steps towards [living with it](#). (at a glance changes are indicated below). The full guidance for school can be found [here](#).

21 February the Government has:

- Removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

From 24 February the Government has:

- Remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.
- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.
- Revoke The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations.

From 24 March, the Government will:

- Remove the COVID-19 provisions within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations.

From 1 April, the Government will:

- Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.
- Update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing.

What this means for us at [East Bridgford St Peter's CE Academy](#):

Whilst for staff guidance changed last week, removing the recommendation to routinely test we will continue to recommend staff test at least once a week.

In school, we will continue to encourage children to wash their hands or hand sanitise regularly and ensure a free flow of air within classrooms and shared spaces.

The guidance has not changed on symptomatic testing. If you develop any of the 3 Covid symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, you've lost your sense of smell or taste or they've changed) you are still advised to [book a PCR test](#). If you have symptoms, stay at home until you get your results.

If your child develops Covid they should, as the guidance states, stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. Students who are isolating as a result of this Covid-19 advice will continue to receive remote education tasks until their period of isolation ends. Please inform school so we can monitor the impact of Covid and report to the local authority and Notts Public Health.

Routine contact tracing by NHS Test and Trace has now ended, meaning there is no expectation that students complete LFD tests for seven consecutive days if they have come into contact with a positive case of Covid-19. We will only write to you to let you know of positive cases in the event of a local outbreak.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please feel free to call or email school.

Richard Tomlinson
Head Teacher