



Ribbon Academy

Barnes Road

Murton

Co Durham

0191 5175900

Mrs A Sheridan (Head teacher)

[www.ribbonacademy.co.uk](http://www.ribbonacademy.co.uk)

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

## Information Regarding Additional Measures in School

Dear Parent,

We have been advised that there have been several confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. NHS test and trace will be in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are legally required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice. For full details of the guidance please see [www.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)

The school remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

We have sought advice from our local Public Health team and in line with our contingency plan, which all schools are required by the DfE to have in place, we will be re-introducing the following measures:

- Bubbles – in year groups where cases are high.
- Testing – some pupils may be advised to take a PCR test and we will inform individual pupils where this is advised.

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19**

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken.

People who receive positive LFD test results for COVID 19 will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test. You must register your LFD results at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Once you have reported your result, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace so your contacts can be traced.



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There are a few exceptions to this revised approach, including:

- you wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- you have a health condition that means you may be suitable for new COVID 19 treatments
- you are taking rapid lateral flow tests as part of research or surveillance programmes, and the programme asks you to do so
- you are an international arrival and have a positive day 2 rapid lateral flow test

It is now possible for people with COVID-19 to end self-isolation after 5 full days if they test negative on day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a high temperature.

You can take an LFD test from 5 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. If both these test results are negative, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test.

You should stop testing after you have had 2 consecutive negative test results\*.

This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

#### **What to do if there is a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in your household?**

- PCR testing for all adults who are not exempt from self-isolation if they are a close contact of a positive case and are required to self-isolate\*.
- Daily LFD testing for 7 days for any adult or secondary age pupil or primary pupil aged 5yrs and older who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive\*.

\*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD unless they develop new symptoms or tests are required as part of the exemption to self-isolate. However, people are encouraged to restart routine LFD testing after the 10day isolation period if they work in or attend education settings.

#### **Help, support, and further information.**

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help](http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help) or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via [durhamlocate.org.uk](http://durhamlocate.org.uk)

Best regards,

Mrs Sheridan (HT)