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Monday 28 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

You will have of course seen on the news that the Prime Minister has set out the government's plans for the next phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, published here: ['Living with COVID-19'](#).

Below is a summary of the main implications for schools and families:

- From Monday 21 February, the Government removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. However, this does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms should book a free NHS test and follow the current guidance.
- From Thursday 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be strongly 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
- From the 24th, the Government now no longer asks 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. The Government has now also ended routine contact tracing
- Various other changes from 1st April, including the removal of the guidance to stay at home after a positive test. Free symptomatic and asymptomatic testing will also end at this point for most people

In summary, we are moving from a period of legal restrictions to one of personal responsibility. Like any illness, if a child is unwell/potentially infectious, they should stay at home. Although the Government assessment is that the risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are now very low we must continue to try and protect our community, and in particular, the most vulnerable members within it.

As a school, MK public health has continued to advise us that staff must continue to wear face coverings in communal areas of the school, i.e. anywhere than in their classroom bases. This will continue until further notice.

Please also find below the latest guidance to support parent and carers.

Yours sincerely

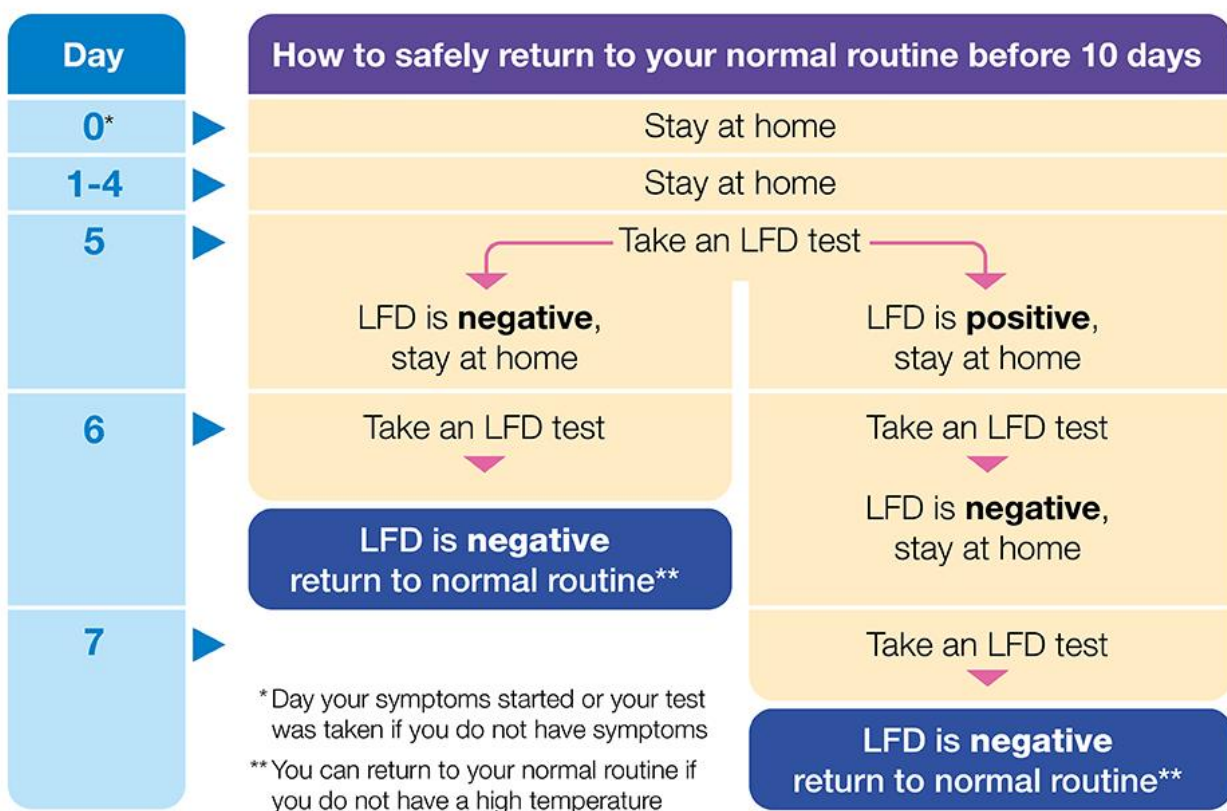
Mr Gray

If you have COVID-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people

If you have COVID-19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. If you have COVID-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

You should:

- not attend work. If you are unable to work from home, you should talk to your employer about options available to you. You may be eligible for Statutory Sick Pay
- ask friends, family, neighbours or volunteers to get food and other essentials for you
- not invite social visitors into your home, including friends and family
- postpone all non-essential services and repairs that require a home visit
- cancel routine medical and dental appointments. If you are concerned about your health or you have been asked to attend an appointment in person during this time, discuss this with your medical contact and let them know about your symptoms or your test result
- if you can, let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result so that they can follow this guidance Many people will no longer be infectious to others after 5 days. You may choose to take an LFD test from 5 days after your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms) followed by another LFD test the next day. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, the risk that you are still infectious is much lower and you can safely return to your normal routine.



If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results. Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting