

10th December 2021

Update about the new covid guidance: Plan B

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the Prime Minister's Announcement earlier this week and implementation of the Plan B arrangements, I am writing to inform you of the measures we have implemented within our school in order to reduce the risk of transmission, and ultimately to reduce this within our community.

Measures within Willow Primary School

- All adults will wear a face-covering in communal areas to reduce transmission rates
- Handwashing procedures have increased throughout the day
- All staff are undertaking LFD tests at least twice a week but they can do this daily if they wish to do this
- All visitors to the school have to undertake a LFD test before they are admitted. They are sent a guidance document prior to their visit and
- All Christmas performances have taken place under strict covid risk assessment and guidance from Public Health.
- All other Christmas events involving our community, are going to happen virtually ie our Christmas Church service will happen over Zoom.
- Parents are encouraged to socially distance whilst attending the school site at the beginning and end of the school day and wear face coverings.

Communication and contacting staff in school

- We are asking parents to communicate via email or telephone and not to visit the school office. Please do not attend in person at the school office unless it is an emergency.
- Teachers can be contacted via the 'homelearning' email addresses for each year group.

The National Guidance from Friday 10th December (Face-coverings) and Monday 13th December (working from home)

- To work from home where possible to reduce transmission
- Mandatory face coverings to be worn in "most public indoor venues", such as cinemas and theatres.
- The mandatory use of face coverings in shops and on public transport
- The NHS Covid Pass will be mandatory to access indoor and outdoor venues where large crowds gather. This includes unseated indoor venues with more than 500 people and unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people, as well as any venue with more than 10,000 people.
- The NHS Covid pass can still be obtained with two doses but this will be under review as the boosters roll out. A negative lateral flow test will also be sufficient.
- Anyone who is a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of Omicron will need to self-isolate regardless of their vaccine status or age.

Management of Household Contacts

Reducing the risk of transmission is important for the health reasons and also reduces overall disruption to education. If someone in the household (e.g. parent or sibling) has tested positive for COVID-19 using an LFD or PCR test, the pupils should stay at home:

- If the child develops symptoms on day 1 or 2, they should get a PCR test straight away
- If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test **as soon as possible** after their household member started with symptoms (or took their test if they had no symptoms)
- If this test is negative, the child can return to school, and use LFD tests for the remaining isolation period of the household case
- If the child develops symptoms at a later date, they must stay home and PCR test again

This applies to primary and secondary age children. Any pupil who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days and 12–16-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago can be exempted from this unless they have been informed that they are a close contact of a person with Omicron variant.

Public Health are also encouraging household members to undertake twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly. To order LFD kits <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Updated Guidance

These measures will remain in place until the end of term: Friday 17th December. We may receive some additional guidance on any further local measures from the Director of Public Health over the Christmas holiday and I will write to you before the start of term to provide an update if the situation changes.

Again we find ourselves in these worrying times until we find out further information about the new variant. I would urge all parents to ensure that they have booked in for the booster vaccines or you can attend the walk in centres within Doncaster.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank parents and carers for your continued support during this time; please ensure that you follow the guidance and ensure that you stay as safe as possible so that we minimise the risk to our families, friends, colleagues and our communities.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Sumner
Headteacher.

