

Aston Fence J & I School – COVID-19 Contingency Plan – February 2022

The Department for Education have now updated the *Schools COVID-19 operational guidance* to reflect the Living with Covid strategy. This highlights the prioritisation of high quality face to face education as we continue to learn to live with the virus, while continuing to take proportionate actions. All educational settings should continue with the following 4 key control measures: -

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

***The points listed below follow the advice provided to schools by the Local Authority and Public Health Rotherham.**

10-point Covid -19 Transmission Risk Mitigation Plan for Rotherham Schools

1. Children with Symptoms

Despite the removal of the legal requirement to self-isolate, we continue to recommend that any children who have symptoms which might be COVID-19 should stay at home and undertake a PCR test, and should avoid contact with other people while awaiting the result of the test.

2. Children who are Positive for COVID-19

We continue to recommend that children who receive a positive test for COVID-19, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic (and whether through PCR or LFT) should isolate at home, following the guidance for self-isolation.

Specifically, this means they should not attend school while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or from 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 may return to school.

3. Household Contacts and LFTs

Children and young people who attend Aston Fence J & I School and live with someone who has COVID-19 are able to attend school as normal.

There is no longer any requirement for daily lateral flow testing for household contacts of a positive case, although it still makes good sense for household contacts to continue to monitor their condition through regular testing if they wish to do so.

In the event of an outbreak at your school, depending on the particular circumstances, we may advise a short-term reintroduction of regular testing for staff.

5. Handwashing

We will continue to reinforce the importance of thorough, regular handwashing with soap and water or using hand sanitiser.

6. Respiratory Hygiene

We will continue to promote good respiratory hygiene and “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” messages to encourage children to catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue and dispose of it in the nearest waste bin.

7. Face Coverings in School

Face coverings are no longer advised for staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas.

In the event of an outbreak at school, depending on the particular circumstances, we may advise a short-term reintroduction of face coverings in certain situations for staff.

8. Ventilation

We continue to ensure that school is well ventilated. This is likely to mean keeping windows open in the classrooms during the day.

9. Mixing Between Groups

There are no longer any legal restrictions on mixing between groups or requirements for social distancing within any settings. Priority will be given to achieving quality face to face education.

In the event of an outbreak at school, depending on the particular circumstances, we may instigate a short-term reintroduction of restrictions on mixing between groups to manage an outbreak.

10. Visits, Events, etc.

Whilst the transmission risk is now considerably lower, we will still carry out thorough risk assessments in respect of any educational visits, school-based performances, parents' evenings, etc and the adoption of pragmatic and commensurate risk mitigations where appropriate.