

28th February 2022

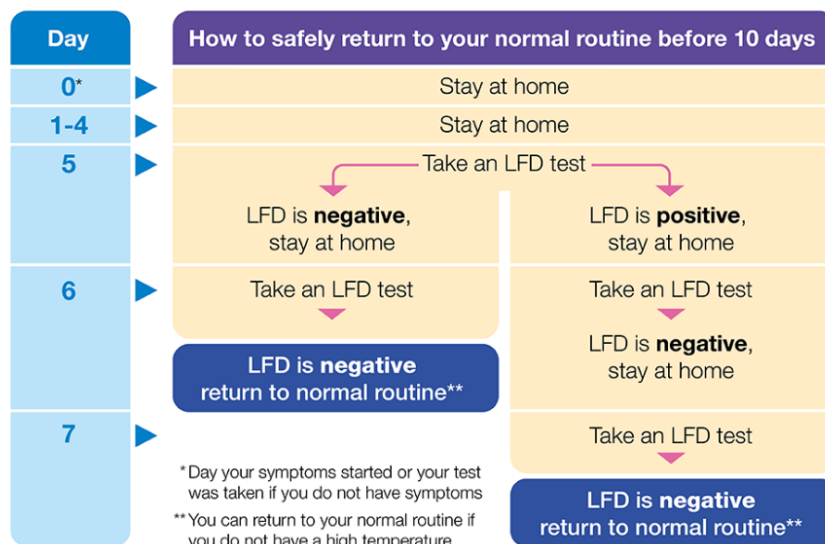
Dear Parents and Carers

COVID Update – 28th February 2022

As you will have seen in the media, the self-isolation guidance has recently changed. Although the law which required people to self-isolate has now been lifted, people who test positive are still advised to stay at home and avoid contact with others for a minimum of five days. If someone develops symptoms of Covid, the current guidance advises self-isolating and completing a PCR test. People in England no longer need to self-isolate or test after contact with someone with Covid, even if they are unvaccinated. From 21 February, staff and pupils in mainstream secondary schools will not be expected to continue taking part in regular asymptomatic (LFT) testing.

In addition to the above, the Government guidance for children and young people with COVID-19 is that they should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFT 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 tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. If the day 5 LFT result is positive, they should continue taking LFTs until they receive 2 consecutive negative test results, or complete the full 10 days.

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



We would recommend parents follow this guidance to minimise the risk of transmission in school to reduce children missing out on learning and impacts on our staffing levels. Face masks are no longer compulsory for students or staff so we would encourage people to make their own decisions about wearing these. As a school we have made the decision to remove all bubbles and return to face to face meetings with parents,



including our upcoming Book Look evenings. We are also returning to whole year group assemblies and after Easter will reinstate our usual University of Broadstone Curriculum on Wednesday afternoons, with students benefitting from mixing with children in other year groups.

Due to the current changes, we are anticipating a lower number of students needing to work remotely in the future. With this in mind, work will be available on Google Classroom for the first 48 hours of an absence for children to complete if they are feeling well enough. This will focus on English, Reading and Maths. Your child's class teacher can also be contacted at this point for additional work following this initial period.

We are deeply mindful that this virus is still present and that despite the lifting of restrictions it is important we all still remain vigilant. We will continue to ensure good hygiene with regular handwashing and that all spaces and areas around school will be well ventilated. We have come so far as a community and can't thank you enough for all your support. For many of us we are adjusting to the new guidelines associated with COVID and understand that all our families will have differing views and approaches to this. We ask you to continue to support each other in staying vigilant as we continue to work to minimise risk as much as possible.

If you are at all worried, or have any further questions please do get in contact either by calling or emailing the school office. We are more than happy to discuss further with you.

Best wishes

Dawn Wilks
Executive Headteacher

Amber Barter
Joint Head of School

Dunyeats Road, Broadstone, Poole, Dorset, BH18 8AE

01202 696121

schooloffice@broadstonemiddle.poole.sch.uk

www.bmsweb.co.uk

