



# The Crossley Heath School

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Dear Parent/Guardian

## Re: COVID-19 measures in schools

As we see the substantial increase in the number of children and adults testing positive for COVID-19, I am taking the opportunity to remind you of some of the key guidance for students.

- 1 **If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19 (on LFD or PCR)**, students are advised to stay at home. If they develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test straight away. If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days 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 but must stay at home and arrange another test if they go on to develop symptoms.

Some children are exempt from this advice:

- 12–16-year-olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago
- Any child aged between 5 – 16 who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days.

You will note that this first point with regard to isolation is slightly different to the national guidance. The advice to schools from Calderdale Council is that students should stay at home when there is COVID-19 in the household due to the way the Omicron variant of COVID-19 spreads so rapidly and the particularly high rates in the area.

The current rate of COVID-19 in Calderdale is once again one of the highest rates in the region – and more than 1 in 100 of our residents currently have COVID-19 confirmed on testing. This is a rate of over 1000 per 100,000. Due to the difficulty that some people have experienced in accessing PCR tests over recent days, the actual rate is likely to be higher. The Office for National Statistics suggested over the weekend that in the UK it may be as high as 1 in 25 of the population.

- 2 **The use of face coverings** in classrooms and in communal areas, including on dedicated school transport remains in place. Please ensure your child is provided with a suitable face covering.
- 3 **Regular lateral flow testing.** Students and staff are advised to continue with testing at home twice per week. Additional testing kits are available from the first aid room or reception from where your child can collect them.

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- 4 **Isolation periods.** Since 22<sup>nd</sup> December, there is a reduction in the period of self-isolation following a positive test, from 10 days to 7 days, if your child returns negative lateral flow tests on days 6 and 7. It is important to note that this is contingent on not having a raised temperature too, and it's return on day 8 (as opposed to day 7 if your child has a negative test on day 7). It is also important to note that the following also applies: if your child ends their self-isolation period before 10 full days they are strongly advised:
- to limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
  - to work from home if they are able to
  - in addition to venues where it is a legal requirement, to wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people
  - to limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
  - to follow the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread

Your child should follow this advice until 10 full days from when their self-isolation period started. This means that whilst children who are confirmed cases can return on day 8 of their infection if they meet the criteria, the above list means our advice is to ask parents to keep students off for the full 10 days as they are unlikely to be able to adhere to the above in the context of the normal school day.

We do appreciate that these can be challenging times for families but we need to do whatever we can to prevent easy transmission of the virus once the school is fully operational. We value your support with all of the above.

We do hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



**Debbie Gallimore**  
**Executive Leader**