



19th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have all enjoyed a restful and sunny Easter break and not over-indulged on the chocolate too much! As I am sure you are aware the guidance has changed regarding Covid related illnesses and absence procedures in all schools. Outlined below are the changes that will take effect in all Meridian Trust schools from the week beginning 18th April 2022.

The full guidance related to '...Health Protection in Schools...' can be read [here](#).

Testing

We have been asked to stop issuing test kits to students and all staff from 1st April. There will no longer be a requirement to test or to inform the NHS or college that your child has tested positive for Covid. We do recognise that parents and carers will have a stock of test kits and may wish to use these to test over the coming weeks. If this is the case and your child has tested positive for Covid then inform the school if you wish. We are unable to order more test kits for future use. Schools are being asked to treat Covid as any other respiratory disease and the full details can be found in the alphabetical listing of diseases [here](#).

What happens if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell, we have been advised to inform you of the following:

- Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, **can continue to attend school**.
- Children and young people who are unwell **and have a high temperature** should stay at home and, where possible, avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough.
- If a child or young person has a positive Covid-19 test result, either from the stock you have left in your house or that you have purchased, they should try to stay at home and, where possible, avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day of the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.
- Children are to return to school after 3 days if they feel well enough to attend.
- Children and young people who live with someone who has a positive Covid-19 test result should continue to attend school as normal.

Test Register

For those of you who signed up to and have been using Test Register we are taking the next step in the process of removing test register altogether and all accounts will be disabled by Tuesday 20th April 2022.

Wearing Masks

Although previous guidance stated that there is no requirement to wear masks in schools, including communal areas, there are still students choosing to do so. We recognise that Covid rates are still high in some areas and therefore the choice to wear a mask will be for the individual student to make. We will however insist that if a student chooses to wear a mask that they wear it properly and that it covers both nose and mouth.

We very much recognise that above guidance signals a change in the ways schools and colleges are being asked to deal with Covid related absence and if you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's House office.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal