



Learning together, growing together

Dorin Park School and Specialist SEN College

03.01.22 – Welcome to spring term and Covid-19 update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all. We are looking forward to the new school term, and to welcoming your children back to school on **Tuesday 4th January**. As expected, we have received updated advice on the control of Covid-19 in schools, and the information you need is below:

If your child develops symptoms, they must stay at home and access a PCR test.

What are the symptoms? The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

*In addition: Data released on 16 December by the Covid Symptoms Study run by the health science company Zoe and King's College London, show that the top five symptoms reported in the app for Omicron infection were **runny nose, headache, fatigue (either mild or severe), sneezing, and sore throat.***

If your child tests positive for Covid-19, they must isolate for 10 days after they become symptomatic. They may be able to return to school 8 days after they become symptomatic **if** they have 2 negative LFD tests on day 6 and 7 (taken 24 hours apart), **and** they do not have a high temperature. If your child cannot take a reliable LFD test, they will need to complete the 10-day isolation before returning to school.

If your child is a contact of any person with Covid-19:

Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, **should take an LFD test every day for seven days** and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. We will send LFD test kits home with pupils to enable them to do this. Parents may choose to isolate their child rather than continue to attend school, especially if they are particularly medically vulnerable or due to Covid-19 positives within their household.

Regular LFD testing for all pupils aged 11+:

Please continue to test your child or young person twice **weekly** using the LFD tests sent home from school. LFD tests are for testing when your child has **NO SYMPTOMS**. If they have a positive LFD test **OR** develop Covid-19 symptoms, then a PCR test is needed. Please test your child today, before they return to school.

LFD Testing on return to school:

We will LFD test all year 7-13 pupils we have consent to test on **Tuesday 4th January**. You will only be notified of the result if it is positive.

Accessing vaccinations:

We will hold a Covid-19 vaccination clinic on **Friday 21st January**. Parents will be contacted directly if their children are eligible for this clinic.

Using face coverings in school:

Children and young people in years 7 and above are encouraged to wear face coverings in communal places, including the classroom and on school transport. Many of our pupils are unable to do this, so it is not compulsory.

Remote education:

If we are unable to provide safe staffing levels at any point, we will revert temporarily to remote learning for the shortest possible time, and for as few pupils/classes as possible. The Omicron variant appears to be highly transmissible, and it is very likely that staffing will continue to be significantly affected. We will continue to do everything we can to keep classes open for face-to-face education.

Yours sincerely, Lucy Lee, Headteacher

Head Teacher – Lucy Lee

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