



ST RAPHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 1st March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we hope you have had an enjoyable half term break and we have enjoyed seeing the children return to school today. Further to the recent changes in National Guidance in relation to Covid-19 please see below updated local guidance from Tameside Council and Public Health.

Tameside COVID-19 updated guidance for schools

This week the government has published its 'Living with COVID-19', which outlines some of the key changes in the approach to tackling the pandemic in the coming weeks and months. In the last few days there has also been a range of updated guidance published: [Living With COVID-19](#); updated [advice](#) around COVID-19 symptoms and contacts for the general public; and the updated [Schools COVID-19 Operational Guidance](#).

'Living with COVID-19' outlines a range of significant changes, some of which have taken effect this week. These key changes include the end of legal requirements to isolate for people with a positive test and unvaccinated contacts; the end of routine contact tracing including the end of advice for close contacts to do daily testing; the end of advice for people to do regular twice weekly asymptomatic lateral flow tests.

Despite these changes, the current public health advice in Tameside remains that people with COVID-19 symptoms should isolate and book a PCR test. And anyone who tests positive either via LFT or PCR test, should isolate for 10 days (but can do LFTs on day 5 and 6, and safely return to normal activities on day 6 if both are negative).

While this is no longer legally enforceable, it is still advised for all staff and pupils in schools and settings. In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of, or who test positive for COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others.

'In light of these changes, Tameside have advised the following:

- Education settings no longer need to advise staff and secondary school pupils to do twice weekly asymptomatic testing
- Education settings no longer need to send out warn & inform letters for groups/classes that have had individual cases of COVID-19 (these were mainly used to advise wider groups of pupils to do daily testing following a confirmed case, and this is no longer a requirement)
- Public Health advice to all education settings is to instruct all staff and pupils/families that people with Covid-19 symptoms or positive tests should not come in to school and follow current guidance
- Reminder – at the end of the last half term we issued the advice that mask wearing was no longer needed in schools

We thank you for your continued support in keeping our school and community safe, should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Mrs L. Lakner
Headteacher

"May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together."