

Date: 01 April 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Updated guidance for schools on Living with COVID-19 from 01 April 2022

Thank you for your ongoing support for your child's school and our Trust. It is hugely appreciated.

In light of the recent government guidance, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on our response to the Government's plan on Living with COVID-19.

As you know, from 21 February the Government removed the guidance for staff and pupils in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing. Free testing for the general public also ended on 1 April. It will continue to be available to help protect specific groups including eligible patients and NHS and care staff, but this does not include school settings.

Our Approach

From today, 1 April, all previous guidance for schools on dealing with COVID-19 has been withdrawn and replaced with the general guidance for everyone on 'Living with COVID'. Northern Ambition Academies Trust will continue to follow any Government and Public Health advice provided to us, so in light of this latest guidance we have adopted the following approach:

- If your child presents with symptoms of a respiratory infection and has a high temperature or feels unwell, please treat this as you would any other illness and keep your child at home until they feel well enough to come to school and no longer have a high temperature.
- The government does not now recommend the use of COVID tests for children unless advised by a health professional. If your child, for whatever reason, has taken a lateral flow test for COVID-19 and tests positive, the government recommends (but does not require) that they should try to stay at home and limit contact with other people for three days if they can. They should come to school once they are well enough to do so and do not have a high temperature. They do not have to re-test before they return.
- Pupils living in a household with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should attend school as normal unless unwell themselves.

Ongoing safety measures in our schools

The Government has removed the health and safety requirement for us to explicitly consider COVID-19 in our risk assessments; however, we continue to implement proportionate safety measures in our schools to reduce the risk of transmitting viruses, including COVID-19. We will:

- Continue to promote good hand hygiene and provide hand sanitiser.
- Continue to promote the covering of the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Ensure regular cleaning of surfaces.

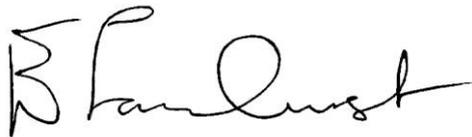
- Make effective use of the CO2 monitors provided to us by the government and continue to identify any poorly ventilated spaces and take steps to improve fresh air flow.
- Keep abreast of any local Public Health advice and respond accordingly.

Attendance

As schools are recovering from the impact of COVID-19, it is vital that we strive more than ever for high levels of attendance, to help our pupils make up for what they have missed over the last two years - both in terms of their learning and in the wider experiences they enjoy at school. Excellent attendance at school remains a key priority for us and for the Government, so can I please give a gentle reminder that regular attendance to school is mandatory for all pupils and our expectation as a Trust. We will continue to work with you to ensure pupils are in school 100% of the time – if you are concerned about your child’s attendance, please contact their school so we can try to help.

Have a happy Easter and please continue to take care,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Fairhurst'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Elizabeth Fairhurst

Chief Executive

Northern Ambition Academies Trust