

6 January 2022

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all families had a safe and restful Christmas break and a Happy New Year. I wanted to provide you with an update on the coronavirus guidance and a reminder of the measures we have in place across the Trust.

The government's guidance remains largely the same as last term with the only major change being the reintroduction of face coverings in classrooms for secondary school students. Primary school children are not required to wear a face covering. Staff in all settings and secondary school students are strongly encouraged to lateral flow test twice a week.

Children aged under 18 years and 6 months are not required to self-isolate if someone in the same household has COVID-19. They are however advised to take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days and would need to self-isolate if any of those test results is positive.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 (confirmed by a PCR test\*), they will need to self-isolate for 10 days as per the NHS guidance. If your child is well they can stop self-isolating and return to school after 7 days if they do a lateral flow test on days 6 and 7 (at least 24 hours apart) and both tests are negative. If a result is positive, they should continue to self-isolate and can test again at least 24 hours after the previous one. Your child can stop self-isolating after 2 consecutive negative lateral flow tests taken at least 24 hours apart. Lateral flow tests should not be taken after the 10th day of the isolation period and your child can stop self-isolating after this day.

\*From Tuesday 11 January positive lateral flow tests will no longer need to be confirmed by a PCR test.

Our preventative measures remain the most effective way to keep our schools safe and they currently include:

- Ensuring anyone with coronavirus symptoms does not attend school and is advised to have a PCR test.
- Keeping classrooms and offices well ventilated at all times.
- Wearing face coverings in social areas and corridors for staff in all schools and in classrooms for secondary school students.
- Washing and sanitising hands regularly throughout the day.
- Practicing good respiratory hygiene.
- Encouraging twice weekly lateral flow testing for staff and secondary school students.
- All parents, carers and visitors to our schools are required to wear a face covering (unless exempt) at all times while on site. We also strongly recommend that they take a lateral flow test prior to visiting school.

I would urge all parents and carers to remain vigilant of the coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. If your child develops any of these symptoms, they must stay at home and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

We will keep you updated with any changes to government guidance, in the meantime, if you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school or email the Trust on [info@pmat.academy](mailto:info@pmat.academy).

Yours faithfully



**Andrew Daly**  
Chief Executive Officer

Our Partner Schools