

Ingoldmells Academy
Covid Parent Questions and Answers - September 2021

National Guidance States: People who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

At Ingoldmells, we have conducted our own risk assessments and the following covid guidance needs to be followed.

We hope to avoid any outbreaks and ask families to support us in the approaches. Please read this guide carefully.

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If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

No - not straight away.

We strongly advise that children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school if they have no symptoms.

If my child is identified as a close contact from outside school, can they come to school?

Yes, if they do not have symptoms. The child should get a PCR test straight away. Although they can continue coming to school, parents may prefer to keep the child off until the PCR result comes back.

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?

The child will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?

That child will self isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS test and trace.

All other children in the class can continue to attend school. Parents will be informed that there is a positive case in the class and should remain vigilant to any developing symptoms for their child.

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of covid.

What happens if lots of children at school tests positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local Health Protection Team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

What happens if the staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. Their children will either be taught by a cover member of staff or supply teacher; if the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely into the classroom. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be teaching remotely and will be resting and recovering.

If my child is self-isolating, will they get work?

Yes, if they are well enough. We will implement our remote education plan for any child self-isolating at home and if they are well enough, we will expect them to complete all work set and share this with the staff team. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will school let us know if there is a positive case?

We will aim to keep parents informed so that you are aware and can keep an eye on your child. Please continue to send them to school so that they do not miss out on their learning.

If a parent has been a close contact and is not required to self isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

Yes, but we would ask that you take some additional precautions.

As well as getting a PCR test, we ask that you:

- Wear a mask on the school site
- Keep physical distance from other families and staff

NHS suggest:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
- wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in twice weekly LFD testing

In all circumstances – please keep school updated about any symptoms, close contacts, or positive cases.

If you have any other questions, please get in touch.