

Date 08 September 2021

Your ref

Our ref S&LL/LF/JR

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to you recently to welcome you back to the new session and to set out some key facts for our safe return to schools and early years' centres. Thank you for following the guidance and for your understanding and patience as we cautiously reintroduce more activities and clubs.

At the time of writing we were wary, but well prepared, however COVID cases are higher than we want them to be and we need to keep making every effort so that our schools can continue to deliver high quality education.

All city of Edinburgh schools follow Scottish Government guidance, supported by [Health Protection Lothian](#). We anticipate further advice from the Scottish Government in the coming weeks and will be back in touch as soon as that is ready. Meanwhile, please follow the guidance below:

People with symptoms or testing positive

- Staff, children or young people who develop the symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), or who test positive using PCR tests or Lateral Flow Device (LFD), must self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS guidance](#)
- Please inform schools of any positive tests when reporting absences.

Contact tracing

- The action that close contacts of positive cases must take varies depending on age and vaccination status
- From 9th August, only those close contacts aged under 18 who are at the highest risk of being exposed to infection will be directly contact traced and asked to self-isolate until they have received a negative PCR test
- Test and Protect will focus on identification of household, overnight (sleepover) or clear, prolonged close contacts

Communities and Families

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- People who live in the same household as the person who has tested positive for/has symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate until they have received a negative PCR test
- If a close contact is aged under 5 years, then they will not need to self-isolate if they remain without symptoms.

Regular LFD testing

- Children and young people in secondary schools should ensure they continue to test twice weekly using LFDs, which can be accessed via their schools. Parents may also wish to encourage younger children in primary schools to test twice weekly using the universal testing offer

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/documents/>

As you know, children's wellbeing and progress in learning are our key priorities. If you have any concerns at all about these issues, please speak to your Headteacher or Head of Centre. They will be happy to discuss what can be done to help. For information, additional staffing and resources have been allocated to schools over the course of the pandemic. Again, your Headteacher will keep you updated on how it is being used in your child's school.

Finally, on behalf of everyone working in education, thank you for your continued support. We are hugely grateful to you for working with us as we move through this phase of the school year, and the ongoing pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Lorna French

Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning