

My ref: Schools Letter – Covid Update April  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Contact: Please contact your school for further information.



To Parents/Carers of pupils in  
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Schools

**People & Communities**  
Education Directorate

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you know, the vast majority of staff and pupils across the country have now returned to education and I am very proud of the efforts that our schools have made to enable this to happen. Each one has carried out a risk assessment, and preventative measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of staff and pupils remains paramount. Whilst the pandemic position has improved, schools remaining COVID-19 safe is a key part of the government roadmap to reopening and we cannot yet return to a 'normal' model of education delivery. This means that traditional 'summer activities' in school may not be possible. It is imperative that schools and their pupils continue to follow the government requirements both in school and at home -



I would therefore ask you to work with us during this time, and would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the important role you also play in keeping our schools open and in making sure that the measures put in place by schools are as effective as possible.

#### **Contact with other households**

As restrictions ease, it is important that you minimise contact with people outside of your household, and maintain social distancing, as much as possible. Please also talk to your children about this and continue to observe the restrictions that are in place. We will be supporting schools in taking appropriate action where these rules are not followed.

#### **Lateral Flow Testing / Rapid Testing**

In line with national guidance, schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are encouraging staff and children over the age of 11 to take part in twice-weekly lateral flow tests, also known as rapid tests. Family members can also access testing but these tests are **not suitable for children under the age of 11.**

With 1 in 3 people with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, rapid testing helps to identify positive cases quickly, preventing the spread of

infection. I would therefore urge you to take part in this and ask that you report all results to your child's school (positive, negative or void).

Information on how to obtain a lateral flow test is available here: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

It remains essential that anyone who gets a positive result from a lateral flow test self-isolates immediately, along with other members of their household, **whilst they arrange for a confirmatory PCR test within two days**. This applies to all lateral flow tests, regardless of where they were carried out. The school should also be informed of the positive result, and it should be reported via gov.uk. This will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

### **Face coverings**

Please ensure your child uses face coverings safely when your school or college asks them to wear one unless they are exempt. Pupils in Year 7 and above should wear a face covering when moving around the school premises (such as in corridors or communal areas), and in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained.

Parents/carers should wear a face covering when visiting the school, or when collecting their child at the end of the school day. Please follow the guidance of the school which is there to protect all children and staff in schools.

### **Transport**

Please ensure that your child follows the seating plan when using school transport (to reduce the number of children having to isolate if there is a single case on the bus) and uses a face covering on school and public transport (if they are in secondary education).

### **Self-isolate if you develop symptoms**

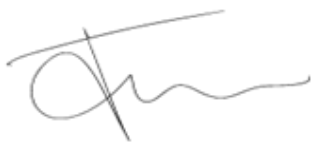
If your child, or any member of your household develops any one of the symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test by visiting [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or phoning 119.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Finally, on behalf of all Headteachers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, I would like to thank you for all for your continued cooperation as we do all we can to ensure that schools remain safe places for children to learn.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Lewis  
Service Director – Education  
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council