

Ashwater Primary School
Ashwater,
Beaworthy
Devon,
EX21 5EW
Telephone:- 01409 211228
admin@ashwater.devon.sch.uk

THE CAREY FEDERATION



Halwill Primary School
Dreybury Lane,
Halwill Junction
Beaworthy,
Devon, EX21 5XU
Telephone:- 01409 221476
admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Ruh Alford B.Ed (Hons.), M.Ed

www.thecareyfederation.co.uk

Sunday 27th February 2022

Dear Carey Federation Community,

RE: Updated COVID-19 Government Guidance 'Living with Covid February 2022'

As you will know, updated guidance around Covid came into place on February 24th. Some will view this as a positive next step while others will feel anxious about the changes. I am writing to explain the changes and how, in agreement with Governors, we have implemented these in the Federation in a way that balances the educational needs of our children and the safety of the Federation community.

We have carefully studied advice from:

The DfE:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1057106/220224_Schools_guidance.pdf

The Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts> and Devon County Council (DCC) to put in place a Risk Assessment which can be viewed on our website: https://www.thecareyfederation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/RA100-V-2.9_25022022.pdf

The key points from the Risk Assessment and how they will affect the Carey Federation community are summarised below:

Self-Isolation if a Person Tests Positive for Covid-19

The Government document above states: *'There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.'*

This is reiterated by the Public Health advice shared by DCC in the diagram to the right:

In summary, if a person develops symptoms or has a positive test result we will ask people to stay at home to avoid passing the infection on to others.

Plan for Living with COVID-19: Key changes

People with main symptoms of COVID-19 **STILL** advised to stay at home, avoid contact with others and PCR test.



Fever



Cough

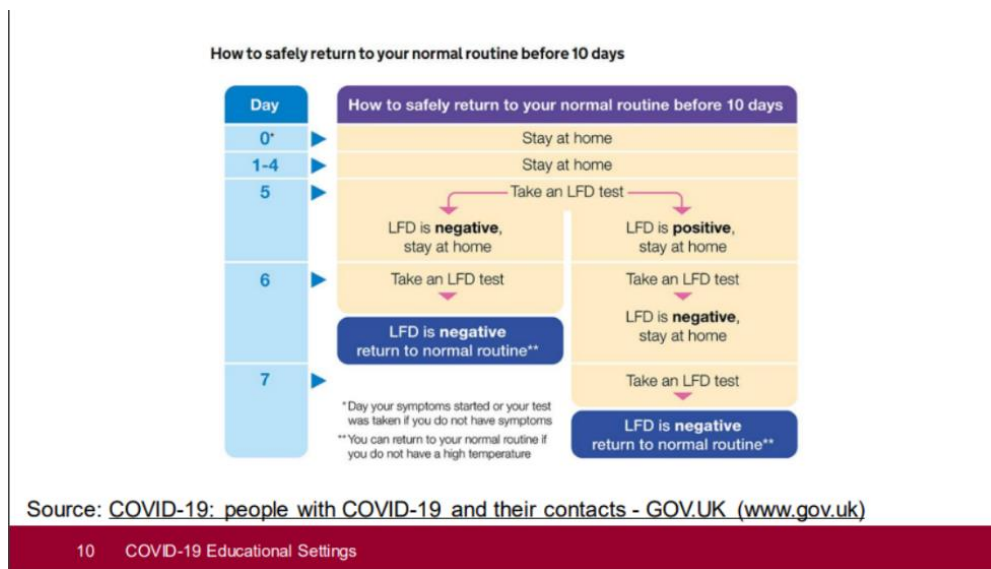


Loss of smell/taste

Note: other symptoms may be present, however, **PCR testing and isolation** continue to be advised **based on these three symptoms**.

Self-Isolation Period

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, please follow the flow chart below. The Federation still has some LFD tests and we may be able to help you, if you are unable to access them yourselves.



Symptoms

DCC advise schools to communicate the following information to parents and encourage parents to follow the latest guidance around isolation if symptomatic:

*'Children who are unwell should **not** attend the setting and should remain at home until their acute symptoms resolve (+24 hours for a fever).*

- ***IF** these symptoms develop into cough, temperature, changes to taste and smell, should isolate and test.*
- ***IF** test negative to COVID-19, still need to remain at home until at least 24 fever free and acute symptoms resolved.*

Parents and settings should not try and 'second guess' diagnosis – if children have the key symptoms, isolate and test.

Examples of acute symptoms with which children should not attend school/nursery include fever, muscle aches, hacking cough.

The school's operational guidance outlines that in most cases parents and carers agree that a pupil with the key symptoms should not attend the school given the potential risk to others.

*If a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school as a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19, The school can take the decision to **refuse** the pupil if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.'*

Close Contacts

Close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests and contact tracing has ended. Routine contact tracing (provided by NHS Test and Trace) has now ended, and close contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests. People with COVID-19 will be encouraged to inform their close contacts, Household and overnight contacts advised to take additional precautions for 10 days.

In The Carey Federation, we currently have a limited supply of LFD tests for staff who are close contacts to continue to test daily for 7 days. We encourage pupils who are close contacts to continue to LFD test daily for 7 days, if parents have access to these.

Carey Federation Staff who are close contacts will be encouraged to wear face coverings.

Testing

There is a return to PCR testing as the method of confirming a COVID positive case and should be taken if a pupil or staff member has symptoms.

Regular asymptomatic testing of staff in mainstream schools will not be expected to continue. Any outstanding test orders from the DfE will now not be delivered.

However, our experience in The Carey Federation is that regular asymptomatic testing for staff has enabled us to keep the education of children going because we have quickly discovered positive cases and stemmed the spread. Whether people become very poorly with COVID or not, if a number of staff become unwell, the schools will not be able to operate. Therefore, in agreement with Governors, for the second half of the Spring Term 2022, **we will ask staff to undertake weekly LFD testing.** We currently have enough supplies to enable this and will look at the cost risk/benefit to purchasing more moving forward. Staff will be expected to report a positive case and then take a follow-up PCR test.

Face Coverings

DfE and Government advice is that face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas.

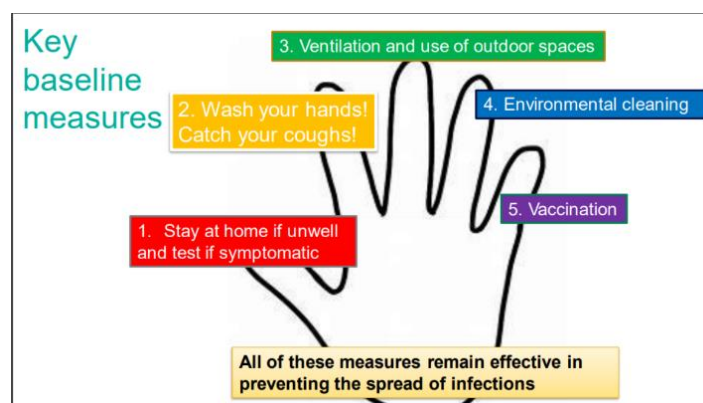
The Governors have agreed that in the Federation, face coverings will be optional. However,

- they are strongly encouraged in crowded, enclosed spaces
- close contacts of a positive case will be asked to wear a face covering
- visitors will be asked to wear a face covering
- If a staff member is supervising a child with COVID-19 symptoms, a face covering should be worn

In addition, pupils aged 11 and above are asked to continue to wear a face covering on school transport.

Disease Control

This diagram shows the baseline measures for infection control.



In The Carey Federation, we ensure good hygiene for everyone by:

1. Continuing to encourage good hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and the use of PPE when required.
2. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes - we will continue to follow the UKHSA published guidance on the cleaning of non-healthcare settings.
3. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated - all staff know the importance of keeping classrooms/spaces well ventilated and this will remain in place and balanced with a comfortable room temperature.

Contingency Plan

In the event of an outbreak:

- Pupils and staff with COVID-19 will be asked to stay at home
- All staff will be asked to wear face coverings (unless exempt)
- Bubbles at Halwill will be reintroduced
- All close contacts (staff and pupils) will be asked to do daily LFD tests
- External providers, After School Clubs and visitors will be cancelled
- Continued cleaning of classrooms, touch points and equipment
- Clear communication to parents and staff
- If staffing levels drop to a level where adequate supervision and safeguarding of children is in question, DCC will be contacted for advice re: returning to Remote Learning

Thank you for your patience in reading this very long letter and I hope you have found it clear and useful. If you have any questions, please do contact me via either school offices.

Yours sincerely,

Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher