



# Merridale Primary School

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Our Ref: LT/JH

Date: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the national guidelines regarding COVID-19 have recently changed so we wanted to inform you of the advice from the Local Authority regarding cases in school and our community.

The below advice is based on experience of controlling spread and managing outbreak situations in educational settings. It should be read in conjunction with:

- The government's COVID-19 response [‘Living with COVID-19’](#)
- UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance [People with Covid 19 and their contacts](#)

As a school, we have been asked to continue to keep a record of positive cases so would be grateful if parents and carers could keep us informed if any children at Merridale test positive.

In line with [government guidance](#), anyone testing positive for Covid-19 is advised (but not legally required) to stay home and avoid contact with others for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

## Symptoms

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of these symptoms you should [order a PCR test](#). You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

## Contacts of positive cases

Contacts in schools are longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.

However, those who live with, or have stayed overnight in the household of, someone who has COVID-19, are advised to follow the below advice for 10 days after the day the person they live or stayed with symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms):

- work from home if able to do so
- avoid contact with anyone who is at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected with COVID-19, especially those with a severely weakened immune system
- limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- wear a well-fitting face covering made with multiple layers or a surgical face mask in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people

**Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Towle', written in a cursive style.

Mrs L Towle  
Headteacher