**Bamford Primary School**

**COVID parent Questions and Answers – September 2021**

National guidance states: people who have been fully vaccinated are no longer required 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.

The following guidance aims to help you understand the current guidance to ensure minimal disruption to your child’s learning. We hope to avoid any outbreaks and ask families to support us by following this guide carefully.

**Symptoms of COVID-19 are defined by the NHS as**:

* High temperature
* A new and continuous cough
* Loss or change in your sense of smell or taste

Please refer to the NHS website for a full list of less common symptoms if you are unsure. If you have any of these symptoms, you are advised to get a PCR test and self-isolate until you get the result.

**Frequently asked questions**

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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 and remain at home whilst awaiting the results. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative, **and they are well**, they can 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 results.

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

Yes. As long as the child remains well and symptom-free they should come to school as normal.

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

Yes, as long as they have no symptoms. The child should follow the guidance stated when they were informed of being a close contact; this is usually an instruction to take a PCR test. The child can continue to come to school whilst they await their results from the PCR test.

**If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?**

The child will be sent home and should take a PCR test then self-isolate whilst awaiting the results. The other children in the class should continue to attend.

**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 will 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 in their child.

**At Bamford Primary, we are adding the following enhanced measures:**

Staff will identify ‘high risk contacts’; for example, children who have had very close or prolonged close contact with the child who has tested positive. It is likely to be children who the positive case sits next to on a regular basis. We will suggest that these parents take their child to have a PCR test. They can continue to come to school while they wait for their result.

**Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?**

No, this is not a requirement for primary schools. We would encourage all adults to take regular lateral flow tests, especially if they are feeling unwell, to help identify early onset of COVID-19.

**What happens if lots of children at school test 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 a return to ‘bubbles’, wider testing or targeted closures of certain classes.

**What happens if a staff member tests positive?**

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. The children will either be taught by a cover member of staff, or if the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely via Teams 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 be given work?**

Yes. We will implement our remote learning plan for any child self-isolating. If they are well enough, we will expect them to log on via Teams to join morning registration then complete all work set. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

**Will children be in bubbles?**

No. Bubbles are no longer a requirement set by the Department of Education. Our school community is comparatively small and there are substantial cross-overs with siblings into other bubbles. However, it may be necessary to return to reduced mixing in school if there is a significant increase in positive cases within the school community.

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

We will aim to keep the parents informed and contact those directly affected by a positive case.

**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, as long as you remain symptom-free. NHS suggests that you take some additional precautions:

Limit close contact with other people outside your household

Wear a mask in enclosed spaces

Keep a physical distance from other families and staff

Take part in twice-weekly lateral flow testing

This advice applies whilst the person who tested positive with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

**In all circumstances, please keep school updated about any symptoms or positive cases.**

If you have any other questions, please contact school.

September 2021