



Essendon C of E Primary School

Covid Infection Risk Reduction Action Plan – January 2022

Aim of risk assessment and risk reduction plan

To reduce the spread of Covid in Essendon C of E Primary School, to reduce the occurrence of staff self-isolation, ensuring face to face teaching can continue and class timetables can run.

Context

We know the spread of Covid and its variants continues to be rapid and cases are very high. Fortunately, most adults are vaccinated so infection does not usually result in hospitalisation but it does mean that if staff catch Covid they will have to self-isolate for up to 10 days and this means that teaching and learning will be disrupted. We want to reduce the risk of this disruption to your child's education by ensuring that positive cases of Covid are minimised in school.

Vaccination, testing, self-isolation and mask wearing are the strategies used to reduce the spread of Covid. Secondary aged children are being offered the vaccination, secondary schools are testing pupils on site before they start school this term and then secondary pupils are testing twice a week. Secondary school children are also wearing masks in school. These measures ensure that positive cases coming into school are reduced and that the spread of Covid to teaching staff is minimised and teaching can continue.

The Government has not included any of these measures in their guidance for Primary Schools leaving staff open to increased rates of infection from primary aged children and then increased periods of staff self-isolation and increased disruption of learning.

Therefore, as part of the risk assessment and risk reduction plan for Essendon C of E Primary School we have put the following extra measures in place to ensure that Covid cases in school are minimised and we can reduce the need for staff self-isolation due to Covid positive cases. With these measures in place we can continue with face to face teaching as much as possible.

Action Plan and Extra Measures

1. Please test your child for Covid before their return to school on Thursday 6th January

All our children should take a Lateral Flow Test before return to school on Wednesday evening or morning of return on Thursday. Please order tests free on-line, <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>, collect from pharmacies or you can take a test at school.

2. Regularly test your child for Covid

Secondary school pupils and primary and secondary school teachers are testing twice a week to ensure that Covid infection is not brought into school. The Government has not asked primary aged children to test regularly and so Covid infections can be brought into school at any time and spread to teaching staff resulting in self-isolation and disrupted teaching time. So that the disruption of teaching time is minimised please regularly test your child/ren for Covid each week – for example on Sunday evening and on Wednesday evening.

3. Action required if your child has a positive Covid test

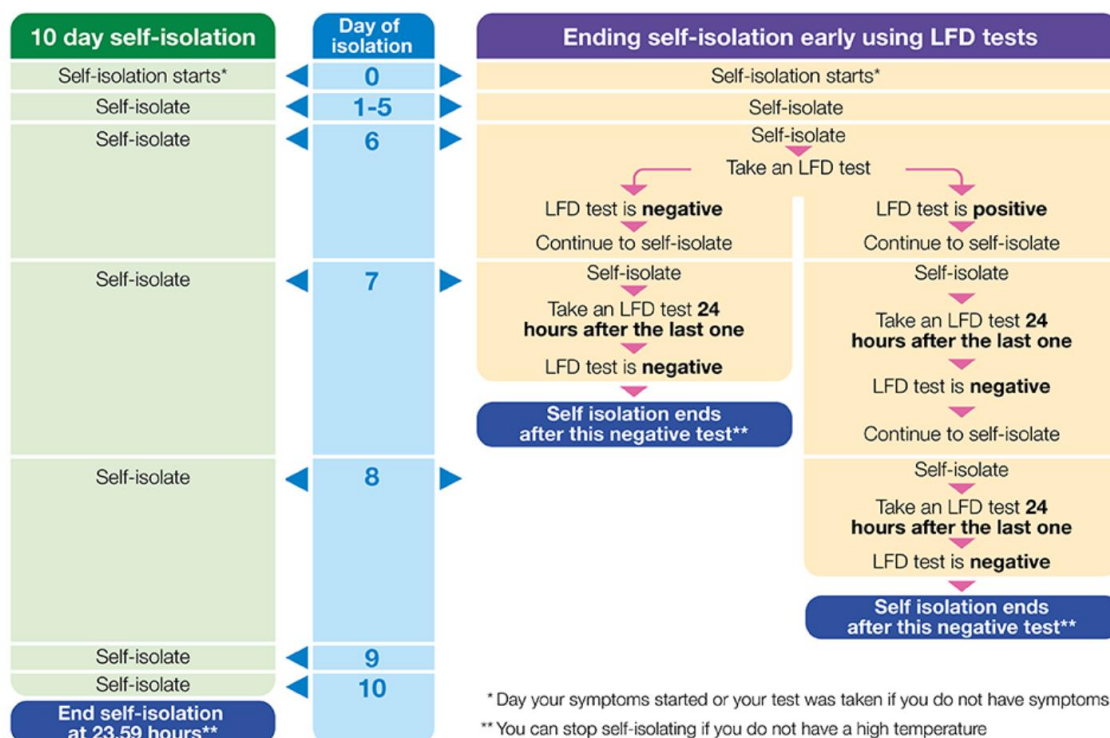
If a child is Covid positive please contact the school immediately, agree date of Day 1 – positive Lateral Flow or PCR and follow government guidance on isolation.

If your child takes a Lateral Flow Test and the result is positive, they should immediately self-isolate to prevent them from passing the infection on to other people. You should arrange to have a PCR test. If this PCR test result is positive, they must self-isolate and follow the advice for people who have COVID-19. If this PCR test result is negative, they can stop self-isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests. Please consult with school about timings for returning to the classroom.

Following a positive PCR test, return to school after 10 days isolation or after 7 days isolation and two negative Lateral Flow tests. Evidence to be supplied to NHS and school.

Individuals who have Covid may now take Lateral Flow Tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#SymptomsPositiveTest>

4. Action required if you have a Covid case in your household

If there is a positive case of Covid in your household, adult or child, please let the school know immediately and the date of first symptoms or positive Lateral Flow Test. This is Day 1.

Keep all children who attend Essendon C of E Primary School at home from Day 1 to Day 3. Remote education will be provided – lessons can be live streamed, paper copies can be picked up or learning can be accessed by Seesaw or Oak Academy, the Government on-line teaching platform <https://www.thenational.academy>

Please share an up to date email address with the school.

Day 4 children from Essendon C of E Primary School can return to school with a negative Lateral Flow or PCR.

You will be required to continue to test your child for Covid every morning before school until Day 10, sharing the daily result with school and the NHS. All dates to be agreed with school.

Why is Essendon School asking us to keep children at home for Days 1 to 3?

During the Covid pandemic we have seen children from Covid positive households catching Covid after 2/3 days from the family member who originally tested positive. Symptoms of Covid can take 2 or 3 days to show, and during that time a person can be infectious. Our experience showed that during the Autumn Term when we had our first Covid outbreak in September it appeared to be because children were coming in immediately after a family member had tested positive with Covid. We were following Government Guidance which said to come in immediately, but this did not reduce the risk of spread in school it accelerated it. The infection was passed on at home and appeared to take 2/3 days to show in the child by which time it had been spread in school. When we introduced a 3 day wait at home period and then asked for evidence of a clear PCR test for return, our case numbers dropped dramatically and we had no large Covid outbreaks amongst our pupils for the remainder of that term.

Essendon School introduced this wait-period during the Autumn Term and will continue to use this 3 day pause period for children with positive cases at home as a fire-breaker. Please keep all children who attend Essendon School at home for the day of the confirmed positive case and the next two days – returning on Day 4 with a negative lateral flow test or PCR.

Continue to carry out Lateral Flow Tests every day until Day 10. Children should take this daily Lateral Flow test before they leave home for the first time each day. Report your Lateral Flow test results to school and the NHS after taking each test.

5. If your child is poorly at home.

Please do not send your child into school if they are poorly or you think they are off-colour. Carry out a Lateral Flow Test, let the school know the result and if the result is positive or negative keep your child at home until they are well.

Please test your child for Covid if they have the following symptoms:

Heavy cold

Sore throat

Headache

Upset tummy/tummy pain

A new continuous cough

A high temperature

A loss of, or change in sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

6. If your child is poorly in school

If your child is poorly in school we will ask you to come to school and for your child to go home. We will ask for your child to take a Lateral Flow or PCR test before they return to class if they have the following symptoms and we will ask you to keep your child at home until they are well:

Heavy cold

Sore throat

Headache

Upset tummy/tummy pain

A new continuous cough

A high temperature

A loss of, or change in sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

7. Continued in school measures

We will continue to follow all the usual Covid measures in school, increased ventilation, handwashing, sanitising, coughing into elbows.