



Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Headteacher - Mr P Ackers
Deputy Headteacher - Mrs S Rudd

Monday 7th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you with an update in light of the recent number of confirmed COVID cases at Saint Mary's. First of all, we would like to thank you for your understanding and support in keeping everyone as safe as possible. We want to be as transparent as possible at all times with you and we will be communicating out to you with further updates over the days and weeks. This morning the Leadership Team has contacted Public Health England to inform them.

In light of previous guidance we are continuing with the following measures:

- Face coverings are being worn around school again by adults. This includes communal areas and the staffroom and in classrooms at the adults' discretion.
- Classrooms remain well ventilated with CO₂ monitors in all rooms
- Enhanced cleaning to be stepped up in school
- Meetings, assemblies and worships are now taking place virtually
- Reduced numbers in all school areas is being encouraged
- Visitors to school must wear a face covering unless exempt

Where direct messages / actions need to be given to specific year groups they will receive a separate letter with the details in. Where enhanced testing is advised, we will request this to offer another layer of reassurance for us all.

Please see supporting guidance from Public Health England

In addition to daily LFD testing for close contacts, we encourage household members aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly.

If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace, then we would advise they undertake daily LFD tests for a period of 7 days. This advice applies to children aged 5 and over. Whilst daily testing for 7 days is your choice, it is strongly encouraged as it helps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in your community.

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119) and remain at home at least until the result is known and they are fever free (without medication) for at least 24 hours.

- *If negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to school once well;*
- *If positive, the child should isolate as a positive case (see below)*



DIOCESE OF
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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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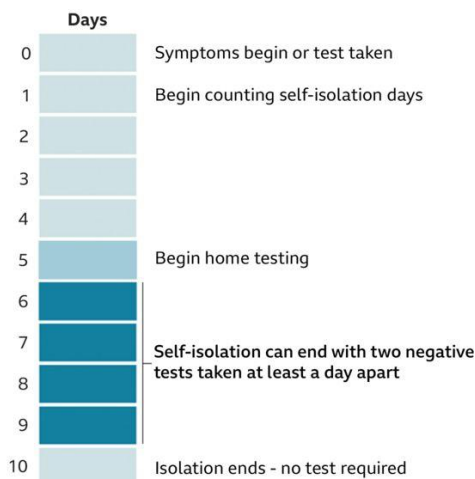
People who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate at home until they are well (48 hours fever free) and either:

- a) 10 full days have passed, or
- b) They have produced two negative LFD tests at least 24 hours apart, with the first taken no earlier than day 5.

Note: Lingered coughs and changes to smell / taste are not a sign of ongoing infectiousness, so children can return to school if they have ended their self-isolation period (see above).

If your child does not have symptoms, count the day they took the test as day 0. If they subsequently develop symptoms, they will need to restart their isolation period using the day symptoms developed as day 0.

How five-day isolation rule works in England



Source: NHS



The staff and you as a community are doing an incredible job in very trying times and we are so appreciative of this. Please get in contact with school if we can be of any more assistance.

With very best wishes.

Take care,

Mr Paul Ackers
Headteacher

Mrs S Rudd
Deputy Headteacher



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