

23 September 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

We thought it would be useful to update you with some of the instructions from the latest Schools COVID-19 operational guidance provided to us by the Government.

Track and Trace

Whilst the NHS Test and Trace continue to work with positive cases, schools are no longer required to undertake contact tracing except in exceptional cases. Therefore we will no longer be sending home students if other students in their classes test positive for Covid-19.

Self-isolation

The rules regarding self-isolation have changed significantly. Individuals are **not** required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

If any individuals are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised that they have been in close contact with a positive case, they will be advised to take a PCR test. The advice says that students who have been identified as close contacts should continue to attend school as normal.

COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test

As per public health advice, students should not attend school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have a had a positive test result. Details of the main coronavirus symptoms can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Should your child need to stay at home for this reason or any other, please ensure you call the school absence line on 020 8872 8900 or email attendance@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk to inform the school of their absence.

Lateral Flow Device Testing

In order to continue to keep the whole community as safe as possible during the pandemic, we would encourage all students to continue to carry out an LFD Test twice a week. All students will be encouraged to collect more LFD test kits this afternoon on their way home. Further test kits are available from reception to be collected as required.

COVID-19 vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

We are watching with interest the development of plans for Covid-19 vaccinations to be extended to 12-15 year olds. We are yet to receive any communication from the government of what role schools will undertake in this process. We will provide an update to you when more information becomes available.

Thank you for your continued support, it has been a joy to welcome the students back this term looking so smart and so engaged with their learning.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J. Haddow
Deputy Headteacher