



Together we learn, together we succeed

Managing C19 at Rusper Primary – September 2021

Context

In July 2021, in the wake of a successful vaccination campaign on adults of all ages, it was deemed that the risks to people and children of becoming seriously ill if COVID was contracted were very low. This led to a relaxing of the restrictions that were legally expected of all citizens prior to July 2021. Following the relaxation of COVID restrictions, there have been subsequent changes to the NHS guidelines about self-isolation and treatment of C19.

Find all the up to date details here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

However, virus spread is still a likelihood; and it is still the responsibility of the school to work to reduce virus spread. Thus these changes have implications for the way that Rusper Primary School manages the risk of C19 virus spread.

In school, we are

- **Maintaining hand hygiene**
Pupils and staff handwashing and sanitising at all entries and exits
- **Maintaining respiratory hygiene**
All pupils and Staff will continue with 'catch it, kill it, bin it'
- **Putting additional resources into ventilation and air quality**
The school will be following DfE advice to use CO2 monitors in classrooms and air filters where necessary
- **Maintaining a deeper level of cleaning**
One deeper clean after school + regular cleaning of touch points and essential equipment
- **Staff will continue taking twice-weekly lateral flow tests**
- **No longer operating bubbles**
Which means that pupils and staff will not need to remain separate from each other at all points. From Sep 2nd we will come together as a school at least once a week for an assembly, and pupils and staff will no longer have to follow specific routes through the school or have access limited. However we will still be keeping separate KS1 and KS2 playtimes
- **Continue our protocols for managing a symptomatic pupil in school**
Please see our guidance on the front page of the website for isolating and collecting a symptomatic pupil.

It is essential that parents and school leaders at RPS continue to work closely together to get the balance right between consistent pupil access to the best learning in school and reduction of C19 risk where possible.

We ask that all parents and carers within the RPS community strive for excellent attendance for their children, only keeping them off when absolutely necessary; and also follow the recommendations suggested by the school.

- **Respect 2m distancing on the school drive**

There are no longer specific entry and exit routes that parent groups have to take on the school drive, however to avoid congestion we will still set specific places and times for parents to drop and collect their children. Please see the separate School Operations document on the front page of the website

- **Wear a mask in a situation where you can't guarantee 2m distancing**

Although we support that mask wearing is now a personal choice, we would encourage those who still wish to wear a mask to do so where 2m distancing can't be guaranteed

- **Parents will be allowed in school on specific, pre-arranged occasions**

This will be for parent meetings, pupil performances etc. In all cases there will be a stipulation from the school that adults on site have recently (up to 48hrs previously) tested negative on a rapid lateral flow test. These can be ordered free here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. The school will ask to see evidence of a recent (up to 48hrs previously) negative result, before school entry will be permitted.

- **If my child is named or "pinged" as a 'close contact'**

It is no longer necessary for children under the age of 18 years and 6 months to isolate for 10 days if named as a close contact, instead they should come to school as normal. However, there are specific situations where the school may have additional risk concerns, and therefore we would seek to have a discussion with parents on an individual basis about how best to manage risks in this situation. If your child is identified as a close contact please...

- Seek a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible to rule out infection
- Contact the school as soon you learn your child is identified as a close contact to discuss
- If a PCR test for your child is returned positive you should follow the NHS guidance for isolation immediately.
- If a PCR test for your child is returned positive while your child is at school, you **MUST** contact the school immediately so that the school can implement its' isolation protocols until the child can be collected.

- **If my child has C19 symptoms**

If your child begins to show C19 symptoms whilst at home, please follow these steps.

- Consult with the NHS guidance on C19 symptoms to be sure of the signs before decision making.
- Arrange a confirmatory PCR test immediately
- Contact the school to discuss
- In this situation, the school will ask that you keep your child at home until the PCR test is returned negative and the child is well enough to attend school