



1st February 2022

RE: COVID MEASURE AT LONGMEADOW

Dear Families,

I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy. As the country moved to Step 4 of the roadmap, it is imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. However, we have had to plan for the possibility of an outbreak and what actions we would take to reduce further spread.

Unfortunately, we have a number of positive cases at Longmeadow currently. Therefore we will be moving to Stage Two of our Outbreak management plan and will be reintroducing the following measures from today – Tuesday 1st February until Friday 11th February when they will be reviewed to see if they are still necessary. Any changes will come into place after half term but I will write to you to update you.

Face Coverings

- **Primary settings** - Re-introduction of face coverings for visitors and staff in corridors and communal areas, including staffrooms (where close contact cannot be avoided).
- **Parents** – Reintroduction of wearing face coverings on school grounds

Limiting activities

Following risk assessments it has been determined that planned events / activities cannot proceed and should be postponed. These include:

- Parental reading on site
- Visitors / parental attendance
- Performances / events
- Assemblies
- Offsite visits
- Hire / lettings
- Sports fixtures with other schools
- Clubs

Staffing

Longmeadow is working hard to remain operational. However, we are currently experiencing high volumes of staff absence. Decisions on staffing levels will be made dependent on numbers / needs of pupils present in school on a daily basis. This is because we often aren't aware of absence until 7am that morning. You may notice that your child is taught by somebody different, this is to ensure the school can remain operational. However, if we are unable to maintain this – we may need to close classes for operational reasons.

Testing

- If your child has been in close contact with a confirmed case(s) they should be contacted by Track and Trace and advised to take a PCR test.
- If your child is a close contact of someone with a positive result, then it is recommended that they take a daily lateral flow test.

School meals

- The school will continue to provide meal options for all pupils in school.

Visitors:

- Only essential visitors will be permitted to attend site. Parent attendance into the school building will be via invitation only.

This action is taken as a last resort and will be for the shortest amount of time possible. Should cases decline then we can move back to our standard measures outlined on our risk assessment on the school website. Should numbers stay the same we may need to continue these measures for a longer period of time. Should numbers increase, we will need to move to stage three of our outbreak management plan, also found on the school website.

General COVID information

Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get to your destination
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your co-operation, we wish those affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely

Emily Howley
Headteacher

Appendix A

How to book a test online when you have been identified as a close contact but do not have symptoms yourself

- 1) Go to [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)
- 2) Scroll down and select start now
- 3) Is the person who needs a test an essential worker? **Select NO**
- 4) Test available scroll to bottom **Select continue**
- 5) Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? **Select NO, none of these symptoms**
- 6) Has the person been asked to get a follow-up test? **Select NO**
- 7) Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? **Select none of the above.**
- 8) Why are you asking for a test? **Select I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional. Then Select My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms. Select continue**
- 9) Complete your details and select how you wish to receive your test.