



Edmonton County School

Educating our Community for Success

13th September 2021

Autumn Term Covid-safe Arrangements 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week we enjoyed welcoming back all our students to school, and to what we sincerely hope will be a relatively normal academic year. I am writing to you to clarify the current covid-safe arrangements, some of which have changed since my letter in July. Full details can be found at [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

Measures removed from September 2021 are:

- 'Bubbles' are no longer be required in schools, and so we have not needed to split the school site into 'zones' for each year group. This means that we have returned to a situation where students move around the school to each of their lessons and can have access to all our specialist facilities.
- The school day has returned to 'normal'. For Years 7-10, 12&13 the school day will be 8:25am to 3:00pm; for Year 11 the school day will be 8:25am to 4:00pm (3:00pm on Thursdays). After-school detentions finish by 3:45pm at the latest.
- Schools will no longer need to undertake contact tracing for a suspected or COVID-19 case – this will be the responsibility of NHS Track and Trace. Further details are below.
- Students will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case; they will be advised to take a PCR test instead. This means the school will no longer be asking 'bubbles' to self-isolate at home. Further details are below.
- Social distancing will no longer be required.
- Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas, although this will be kept under review. However, the government recommends that face coverings should be worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet, including on public transport.

Measures still in place in September:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone – regular use of hand sanitizer and anti-viral wipes
- Enhanced cleaning regimes around the school.
- Keeping all occupied spaces well ventilated.
- Promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Lateral flow home-test kits provided for all students to use twice weekly – see below.

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Lateral flow tests

All secondary aged pupils at ECS have had the opportunity to have two lateral flow tests taken in school at the start of the term. Thank you for your support in this logistically complex process. No further tests will be carried out at school this term. Students have been provided with more home-testing kits, and I encourage you to ensure your child/ren continue/s with twice-weekly lateral flow tests using these kits.

What happens if my child's lateral flow test (either taken in school or at home) is positive?

Students with a positive lateral flow test result must self-isolate and will need to get a free PCR test, continuing to self-isolate whilst awaiting the result. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the lateral flow test and the student can return to school, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Does my child still need to self-isolate if they have had contact with someone in our household has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive?

Does my child still need to self-isolate if they have had contact with someone at school with COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive?

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

This means that school students (and the majority of adults) are not required to self-isolate if they have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive; they will be contacted by NHS Track and Trace advised to take a PCR test instead, and can continue attending school whilst awaiting the result.

What do I do if my child has COVID-19 symptoms?

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, they must not attend school until they have received a negative test result from the more reliable external PCR test. Your family must continue to follow NHS and government guidance on self-isolation and testing where symptoms of COVID are present. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are well known (cough, fever and loss or change of taste or smell) but more recently we had students testing positive after displaying a range of symptoms including headaches, stomach cramps, runny nose or diarrhoea. If in any doubt, please keep your child off school and get a more reliable external PCR test at: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Thank you for your continued support. I am sure that by working together we can continue to keep our community as safe as possible this term. However, as winter approaches it is possible that the Government may need to introduce new measures, and I will write to update you if this is the case. If you have any questions or concerns about the content of this letter, please contact info@edact.org.uk with any enquiries.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul Miller, Head of School