

Updated Covid-19 position statement 19 April 2022

Ambitious about Autism, and our Schools Trust, run TreeHouse School, The Rise School and Ambitious College serving approximately 300 children and young people across London and the Home Counties.

The [Government has set out its next steps for living with COVID - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) in England from Friday 1 April. Most of the previous education Covid-19 specific guidance has been withdrawn and replaced with [advice](#) on planning and dealing with public health emergencies, including around respiratory infections.

This position statement reflects current advice and guidance and is effective from 19 April.

For pupils and learners

Testing	
Testing is no longer required.	
If pupils and learners are symptomatic and wish to test we will no longer be allowed to issue test kits. We do have a supply of saliva tests we purchased as an organisation and can offer these to pupils/learners for as long as our stocks last. We would encourage families to purchase test kits from their local pharmacy. Some pupils/learners who were previously deemed to be CEV will be entitled to free tests from their local pharmacy. We are awaiting advice from UK Health Security Agency about how to return unused tests stock.	
Tracing close contacts	
<i>What the guidance says</i>	<i>What we will do</i>
Contract tracing ended in late February.	We will inform parents/carers of pupils/learners who were previously deemed to be CEV if there is a positive case in their class group.
Face coverings	
<i>What the guidance says</i>	<i>What we will do</i>
Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils/learners, staff and visitors in classrooms or communal areas.	Pupils/learners will not be required to wear masks. However, if pupils/learners wish to continue to wear face coverings in communal areas, they can do so. We have face coverings available at the schools/college.
Isolation	
<i>What the guidance says</i>	<i>What we will do</i>
<p>Pupils/learners aged 18 and over with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.</p> <p>Pupils/learners who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend</p>	From Tuesday 19 April 2022, we will encourage parents/carers to keep their child/young person at home if they test positive or are symptomatic. If a parent/carer insists on their child/young person attending, where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, we retain the right to refuse admission if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils/learners and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.

<p>Adults with a positive Covid-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.</p> <p>For children and young people aged 18 and under, who test positive, the advice is to remain at home for 3 days.</p>	
Risk assessments	
<i>What the guidance says</i>	<i>What we will do</i>
Pupil/learner individualised risk assessments	All pupils/learners who were previously deemed to be CEV and who have an individualised risk assessment will have it reviewed and updated in line with the current ways of working.

Vaccination and boosters

There is strong evidence that vaccinations, coupled with booster jabs, are reducing the chances of severe illness. We support the vaccination and booster programme and have actively encouraged pupils, learners and our staff to be vaccinated. It is an important aspect of learning to live with Covid-19.

Arrangements are now in place for all children aged 5 and above to be vaccinated. More information and resources can be found [here](#).

We know that some pupils/learners will find it difficult to access the vaccine. Please access resources [here](#) and also get in touch, if we can help further.

Symptoms

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your 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 your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

Holidays and travel

Parents/carers should plan their holidays within school and college holidays and avoid absences during term time. In planning holidays, parents/carers are asked to note the [Government's travel guidance](#) on potential quarantine requirements for entering other countries and returning to the UK. A pupil/learner will not be able to attend school or college during a quarantine period.