

## Updated Covid-19 Position Statement February 2022

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

On 21 February 2022 the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the Government's COVID 19 response. To reflect these changes, both the Operational Guidance for Schools and the Additional operational guidance for special schools, special post-16 providers and alternative provision have now been [updated](#).

This position statement is effective from 28 February until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, when it will be updated.

### Our approach for pupils/learners:

<b>Testing</b>	
Testing remains in place for pupils/students for secondary age and above	Where possible, we will continue to ask secondary age pupils and college learners to test twice per week. We will continue to supply free LFD and saliva tests.
<b>Tracing close contacts</b>	
<i>What the guidance says</i>	<i>What we will do</i>
From 24th February there is no longer an expectation to undertake contact tracing	From Monday 28th February, we will inform parents/carers of pupils and learners who were previously deemed as clinically extremely vulnerable if there is a positive case in their class group and supply them with free LFD or saliva test to test for 7 consecutive days if they wish to do so.
<b>Face coverings</b>	
<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 they wish to continue to wear masks in communal areas they can do so. We will make free masks available.  Visitors will be asked to wear a mask when entering and circulating in our sites.
<b>Isolation</b>	
<i>What the guidance says</i>	<i>What we will do</i>
From Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> February isolation will no longer be required. Children and young people who test positive are <b>advised</b> to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow guidance until they have received 2 negative LFT test results on consecutive days	From Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February, pupils and learners who have any of the main symptoms of Covid 19 and/or test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow guidance until they have received 2 negative If a parent/carer insists on a pupil/learner attending, where they have a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, we retain the right to refuse the pupil/learner to attend if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.
Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 are no longer required to test daily for 7 days	We will no longer expect fully vaccinated close contacts to test daily for 7 days if they have a close contact. However, for pupils and learners who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable, we will provide free LFD or spit tests if their parents/carers wish for them to test for 7 days after a positive contact.

The legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed	We will no longer expect those who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate after a positive contact. However, for pupils and learners who are clinically vulnerable or clinically extremely vulnerable, we will provide free LFD or spit tests if their parents/carers wish for them to test for 7 days after a positive contact.
<b>Building risk assessments</b>	
<b><i>What the guidance says</i></b>	<b><i>What we will do</i></b>
Children and YP previously considered CEV, or living with someone previously described as CEV, should attend school/college and follow the same guidance as the rest of the population,	We will support pupils/learners previously considered CEV, or living with someone previously described as CEV, to attend, ensure their risk assessment are updated regularly and work with parents/carers to answer their concerns.
<b>Risk assessments</b>	
<b><i>What the guidance says</i></b>	<b><i>What we will do</i></b>
Pupil/learner individualised risk assessments	We will support pupils/learners previously considered CEV, or living with someone previously described as CEV, to attend, ensure their risk assessment are updated regularly and work with parents/carers to answer their concerns.

**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 staff to be vaccinated. It is an important aspect of learning to live with Covid.

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:** If a pupil or learner is symptomatic, we continue to ask that they do not attend school or college. This is important for all members of our community. We need to ensure we do everything in our control to manage infection levels.

Symptoms include the well-documented covid symptoms of:

- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Continuous cough
- Temperature

but also extend to the symptoms that are presenting with the Delta variant of:

- Headaches
- Stomach ache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose

**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](#) and the guidance of the country they are visiting. A pupil/learner will not be able to attend school or college during a quarantine period.