



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JCB/SMF

01 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid rates are high currently, both nationally and in school. You may have heard in the news that some schools are having to resort to partial closure or remote learning to maintain their provision. Naturally, we want to avoid this happening at HGS. I am sure you are also aware that the Government has announced that from today free access to lateral flow device (LFD) tests from community pharmacies is no longer available. This puts us all in a somewhat difficult situation as it becomes harder to manage positive cases and keep students and staff in school.

I would like to take this opportunity of outlining our approach as a school to the next phases of the pandemic in the form of some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Does my child still need to take lateral flow tests?

If you think your child may be showing signs of Covid, please ask them to take a lateral flow test. If you don't have any test kits left at home, we still have a limited supply at school. Please ask at Reception for a pack. There is no need to test if your child does not have symptoms.

What if my child has symptoms but I don't have access to any tests?

If you can test, please do so. If the test is positive, then please keep your child off school for at least 5 days until they feel well enough to return to school. If you don't have access to any tests, we won't be asking you to purchase test kits from your local pharmacy. However, if you can get to school, we can issue you with a test kit to take home.

What if my child has Covid?

If you think your child has Covid and they haven't taken a test, please ask them to take a test. If your child tests positive, please keep them at home for 5 days or until they feel well enough to return to school.

Do you need to get 2 negative tests before returning to school?

The new Government guidance suggests that if you have tested positive for Covid or are symptomatic there is no need to test before returning to school. However, if you do have spare tests, we would really appreciate it if your child could take LFD tests to check they are negative. That way, we can all do what we can to reduce the risk of transmission as we approach the exam season. Please collect a test kit from Reception.

Heckmondwike Grammar School, High Street, Heckmondwike, West Yorkshire, WF16 0AH
Tel: 01924 402202 | Fax: 01924 418318 | Email: office@heckgrammar.co.uk | www.heckgrammar.co.uk
Headteacher: Mr P Roberts

Heckmondwike Grammar School Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 07348329. Registered office address as above.

Does the 'test from day 5' rule still apply?

Although there is no need to test from day 5, the advice is to stay at home for 5 days until you feel well enough to return to school. We would still like your child to test negative before returning to school.

Does my child still need to wear a face covering?

There is no requirement for anyone to wear a face covering in school. However, if your child prefers to continue to wear a face covering, this is entirely their choice - face coverings are optional.

Will the school be providing live lessons if my child has Covid?

We will continue to provide live lessons if we are aware that your child has tested positive for Covid. Please use the online reporting form which is on our website to let us know that your child has tested positive and that they will be joining live lessons. Please note that we are unable to provide live lessons for any absence other than for Covid.

We've come a long way since the dark days of the first lockdown. However, the pandemic is by no means over and Covid still presents us with challenges, especially in the run up to the exam season. We can look after each other by being as safe as we can and by following the guidance:

- if you have symptoms or have tested positive, stay at home for 5 days and only return to school if you feel well enough to do so.
- remember the advice issued early on in the pandemic - hands, face, space. Although no longer mandated, it is still good advice.
- use lateral flow tests to check for Covid if you still have them at home.

We are very grateful for your continued support. As ever, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Barnett

Assistant Headteacher