

# LINK ACADEMY TRUST

*Landscope School House  
Landscope, Nr Ashburton  
Devon. TQ13 7LY  
Tel: 01803 762113*



24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Update on the Covid 19 position from 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 onwards- Living with Covid**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to ensure that we, as the Link Academy Trust schools present a clear approach for parents and carers on the expectations following the lifting of Government Covid 19 restrictions on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Details of the Living with Covid plan can be found through this link, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>

The plan covers four main pillars:

- Removing domestic restrictions while encouraging safer behaviours through public health advice, in common with longstanding ways of managing other infectious illnesses
- Protecting the vulnerable through pharmaceutical interventions and testing, in line with other viruses
- Maintaining resilience against future variants, including through ongoing surveillance, contingency planning and the ability to reintroduce key capabilities such as mass vaccination and testing in an emergency
- Securing innovations and opportunities from the COVID-19 response, including investment in life sciences

The underlying message is that, while they will monitor any changes, we are moving to a position where Covid is endemic and it should then 'be possible to respond to the virus in a similar way to other existing respiratory illness through sustained public health measures'. The expectation is that immunity will thereby increase, however we need to maintain all the precautionary actions that are now well established in our schools.

From February we saw the following actions in place:

The remaining domestic restrictions in England will be removed. The legal requirement to self-isolate ends. Until 1 April, we still advise people who test positive to stay at home. Adults and children who test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days.

From April, the Government will update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to be careful and considerate of others, similar to advice on other infectious diseases. This will align with testing changes.

Self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.

Routine contact tracing ends, including venue check-ins on the NHS COVID-19 app.

Fully vaccinated adults and those aged under 18 who are close contacts are no longer advised to test daily for seven days and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate will be removed.

Further changes being made include:

The guidance has been removed for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

On 24 February, removing additional local authority powers to tackle local COVID-19 outbreaks (No.3 regulations). Local Authorities will manage local outbreaks in high-risk settings as they do with other infectious diseases.

On 24 March, the Government will also remove the COVID-19 provisions within the Statutory Sick Pay and Employment and Support Allowance regulations.

From 1 April, the Government will:

Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.

No longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

Remove the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments.

What this will mean for Link Academy schools:

**Government expectation is that we return to our previous rigorous approach to Attendance, so pupils will no longer be recorded differently if they are absent with Covid and therefore any future absence will contribute to pupil's individual record of attendance.**

**Attendance protocols will return, and rigorous monitoring of attendance will resume.**

**There will be no expectation to test pupils when they are poorly to identify whether they have Covid as there will be no testing kits available.**

**We expect pupils to remain at home if they are unwell and their illness would stop them being able to access learning effectively. Time at home will be considered an absence.**

I hope this helps to clarify the situation for all parents,

Kind regards,

Nicky

Link Academy Trust – Registered Office Address  
Landscape School, Landscape, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon.TQ13 7LY  
Tel:- 01803 762113 Email:- [admin@thelink.academy](mailto:admin@thelink.academy)

