

# GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gillespie Road, Highbury, London N5 1LH

Telephone: 020 7226 6840

Fax: 020 7354 8537

Email: [office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk](mailto:office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Website: [www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk](http://www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH



Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Case of COVID-19**

We have been advised that there has been a positive case of Coronavirus in Year 3. Under the new Government guidance (14 Dec 21) close contacts of a positive case no longer need to self-isolate if they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months or if they are fully vaccinated. Instead, they should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate. Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

## **What the school has done**

We have done a risk assessment and protective measures remain in place, including practising good hygiene, ventilation, and regular Covid-19 testing.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health. If cases increase substantially, the local Director of Public Health may advise us to put extra measures in place. If this happens, we will write to inform you of this.

This letter has been sent out to all families in the class to let them know of the current situation.

## **What you need to do?**

This letter is to provide advice on how to support your child. Providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal

Not being able to take an LFD test is not a valid reason for being absent from school.

If any of your child's LFD test results are positive, they must self-isolate immediately and you should report their result on GOV.UK. Previously you were required to order a PCR test to check the positive result. If your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need to order a PCR test to check the positive result. This is a temporary measure and is subject to review.

Your child should self-isolate for 10 days from the day of the first positive test or when they developed symptoms. They may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. They can take an LFD test from 5 days after the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. People ending isolation early are strongly advised to limit contact with vulnerable people, not visit crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, and work from home where possible.



Associate  
School



**Please be alert for the symptoms of coronavirus which are:**

- **A high temperature**
- **A new continuous cough**
- **A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell**

See [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms)

If your child develops ANY of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate (this means stay at home) and get PCR tested as soon as possible. Please be reassured that for most people, especially children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Staff and parents should continue with regular LFD (no symptom) testing twice weekly – 3 to 5 days apart.

This will help to keep staff and pupils safe and minimise the risk of further disruption to children's education.

### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

#### **Do**

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19. If you or your child is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine but have not yet had it please find more information [here](#) on how and where to get vaccinated
- Meet people outside if possible and open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Continue to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) while on public transport and in busy indoor places
- Take regular LFD (no symptom) tests
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get a PCR test straight away and self-isolate until you get the result.
- If you're a close contact of someone who tested positive, make sure you isolate immediately unless exempt, in which case do 7 day lateral flow testing instead.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

**We know that this is a difficult time for families and thank you for your support as we work to keep our school and wider community safe.**

Yours sincerely,

Mark Owen  
Headteacher

For more information visit:

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) or by phone 111



Associate  
School

