



SHEERHATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Covid Parent Questions and Answers - September 2021

National Guidance states that people who have been fully vaccinated are no longer having to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case; those under 18 years of age also no longer need to self-isolate if they are a contact of a positive case.

At Sheerhatch we have conducted our own risk assessments and we have chosen to implement some further measures in order to protect our pupils, families, and staff. We hope to avoid any outbreaks and ask families to support us in these approaches.

Please read this guide carefully.

If my child has symptoms, can they come to school?

No. They should remain at home. The child with symptoms should get a PCR test. If positive, they will need to self-isolate for a full 10 days. If negative and they are well, they can then return to school.

If someone else in the household has symptoms, can my child come to school?

Yes, the child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms. The person with symptoms should get a test and should self-isolate while they wait for the result.

If someone in the household tests positive, can my child come to school?

No - not straight away. *At Sheerhatch, we are adding the following enhanced measure: Children should stay off school and get a PCR test. If the test is negative, they can return to school if they have no symptoms.*

If my child is identified as a close contact from the community, can they come to school?

Yes, as long as they do not have symptoms. You may wish to be extra vigilant and organise a PCR test, but the child may continue to come to school unless a positive test result comes back

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens? The child will be sent home and must get a PCR test and self-isolate while waiting for the results. The other children in the class will continue to attend school.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens? That child will self-isolate for 10 days and the family should receive a call from NHS test and trace. *At Sheerhatch we are adding the following enhanced measure: Staff will identify 'high risk contacts'; these are children who have had very close or prolonged close contact with the child who has tested positive. We will inform you if your child is identified and you may wish to book a PCR test. Your child may continue to come to school*

unless they are displaying symptoms or test positive themselves. All parents will be informed that there is a positive case in the class and should remain vigilant to any developing symptoms for their child.

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

No, this is not a requirement for Primary schools, however, if your families would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of Covid.

What happens if lots of children at school test positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us if any additional action is required, such as implementing elements of our outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes.

What happens if the class teacher or other staff member tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 10 days. The children will either be taught by a cover member of staff or supply teacher; if the teacher is well enough, they may be able to teach remotely into the classroom. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be teaching remotely and will be resting and recovering.

If my child is self-isolating, will they get work?

Yes. If your child is self-isolating, but well enough to access learning, this will be set via Class Dojo or Google Classroom according to our remote education plan. Staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will children be in bubbles?

For the most part, children will be within their own class groups, but we will no longer be restricting mixing at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

Will other safety measures be in place?

We will continue with regular handwashing and sanitising and our enhanced cleaning protocols. We will be keeping classrooms well ventilated. We have been provided with CO2 monitors which allow us to know when more ventilation is needed, therefore enabling us to balance the need to keep a comfortable temperature. Staff will continue to carry out lateral flow tests twice weekly.

Will face coverings still be worn?

Staff will no longer be wearing face coverings in school and we are no longer asking parents to wear them. The exception to this is that parents or other visitors needing to be on school premises will be requested to wear face coverings.

If a parent has been a close contact and is **not required to self-isolate (double vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?**

Yes, but we would ask that you are extra vigilant. You will be advised by test and trace to take a PCR test.

If a parent tests positive or has been a close contact and is required to self-isolate (not fully vaccinated) can they still bring children to school?

No, you may need to make alternative arrangements.