



# Respect - Responsibility - Resilience

## John Spendluffe Technology College Frequently Asked Questions- COVID 19

Our priority is to ensure we are able to safely deliver high-quality, face-to-face education to all pupils.

Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there will still be a need for schools, pupils and students to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools- we will continue to test twice weekly in school.
2. Ensuring good hygiene including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach- the school community will continue to be encouraged to regular wash and sanitise their hands. Students will sanitise their hands as they arrive in school.
3. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes- regular cleaning will continue to be carried across the school site.
4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated- classrooms will have windows and doors open.
5. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

### **What's Changed?**

#### **Mixing and 'bubbles'**

Keeping pupils or students in year group or classroom bubbles to reduce mixing is no longer a requirement.

#### **Tracing close contacts**

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.

#### **Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. For the first two weeks face coverings will be worn whilst the testing process restarts. From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September, wearing a face covering will be by individual choice. We do ask all JSTC community to respect the decision of a person or persons wishes to wear a face covering.

### **But what if there are a number of cases in school?**

If there are a number of cases in school, there is advice in place from Public Health Lincolnshire, so teachers and staff know what to do. We have a Risk Assessment and Contingency Plans in place if positive numbers increase.



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We will do everything they can to minimise the impact on education and attendance, so might decide to introduce measures like:

- Increased testing
- Temporarily reintroducing face coverings and;
- Restricting attendance as a short-term measure and only as a last resort.

All of the above will be with support and guidance from Public Health Lincolnshire and the DFE.

More information can be found here: [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings](#).

## **What if someone tests positive or has symptoms? Do they need to isolate?**

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 either according to a PCR test or a lateral flow device test – this means you have the virus. If you get a positive LFD test you should book a PCR test. A negative PCR test will override a positive LFD test.
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – [find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#).

Pupils and staff should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive PCR or Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test.

If they develop symptoms or get a positive LFD test they should book a PCR test. A positive PCR test cannot be overridden.

If a pupil and/or staff member is asked to get a PCR test, and have no symptoms, as a result of contact with a positive case they may continue to attend school until they get the result of their PCR back.



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## **And what will happen for people who have been in contact with positive cases?**

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate while awaiting the PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff and children under 18 years 6 months and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal unless told otherwise.

If none of the above applies, people should self-isolate [as per the instructions from NHS Test and Trace](#).