

Matrix Academy Trust

Covid update – September 2021

The following adheres to the latest government's contingency framework guidance, available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011704/20210817_Contingency_Framework_FINAL.pdf

Will my child need to isolate if they are a close contact of someone testing positive?

Pupils and Sixth Form students no longer need to self-isolate if a member of their household or a close contact has tested positive. **Instead, they should book a PCR test but can continue coming to school as long as they have no symptoms and the PCR test result is negative.**

If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and should book a PCR test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home after we have contacted you and you should book them a PCR test.

If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18* or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test.

*The government guidance says: "18- year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated."

September return:




"Students in secondary schools and colleges should be tested twice on site at an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) on return in the autumn term."

THEN:

"All pupils should test themselves using Lateral Flow Devices [which schools will provide] **twice a week at home** until the end of September, when this will be reviewed."

Covid Outbreak Contingencies

From September 2021

Community Covid Risk	Description	Possible Actions
 <p>Low community transmission. No school cases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been no cases of Covid within school for 10 school days. • Cases of Covid locally are low and/ or stable. • Hospitalisation/deaths due to Covid nationally are low. 	<p>No measures are necessary beyond those we are taking routinely and which are well-established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminding children of good hand-hygiene and supervising hand washing/hand sanitising. • Regular cleaning of school site, especially contact points (door handles, etc). • Ensuring good ventilation. • Ensuring children stay at home (and book a PCR test) if they have Covid Symptoms.
 <p>Rapidly rising cases in the community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current Covid cases have been recorded at school, but... • Cases of Covid are rising rapidly in the community, causing disruption to other local schools. • Public Health England issue warnings of expected local/ national infection wave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large indoor gatherings in school (e.g. assemblies) minimised. • Further ventilation in school, wherever practical.
 <p>A few pupils or students test positive</p>	<p>There are a few isolated cases. Most of these people will not be close contacts. E.g. they are in different forms, classes, friendship groups, sports teams, extracurricular clubs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individuals self-isolate for 10 days. Remote learning (live lessons) will be provided, which they can complete if they are well enough. • The parents of the child are contacted directly by NHS Track and Trace to establish likely contacts. • Likely contacts will be contacted by NHS Track & Trace and advised to book a PCR Test.



Several members of the school community who have mixed closely test positive

From the government guidance (link above): “5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

OR

10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.”

- **As above for each positive case.**
- The school will discuss the potential outbreak with Public Health and, following their advice, take *extra actions* for a set period.

If *extra actions* are required, we will communicate these with parents/carers as quickly as possible. Extra actions only apply after the first two on-site tests have been completed.

- The actions may include some or all of:
 - Adapting, limiting or postponing any large gatherings: assemblies, indoor sporting events, trips, open days and performances.
 - Re-introducing face masks for corridors, communal areas and classrooms.
 - Reinstating twice weekly Lateral Flow testing on site



Covid cases continue to increase rapidly within a 10 day period.

Covid cases within the school continue to rise within a 10 day period, suggesting that Covid is spreading throughout the school.

- Meeting held with Public Health to agree extra actions. These may include some or all of:
 - Re-introducing bubbles.
 - Limiting all non-essential visitors to school.
 - Postponing all non-essential events.
 - Reverting to remote learning for larger numbers of pupils and students.