



Willows Academy Trust

COVID Procedures and Frequently Asked Questions

December 2021

Current National Guidance states:

Guidance for households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection:

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself. Therefore:

- *if you are aged 18 years 6 months or over and you are not fully vaccinated, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate;*
- *if you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are not legally required to self-isolate. However, you are strongly advised to take an LFD (lateral flow device) test every day for 7 days, and to self-isolate if any of these test results is positive.*

Read the full guidance here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person:

If you have been in close contact with, but do not live with, a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate unless you meet one of the following conditions:

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

Anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take a rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people.

Read the full guidance here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Following a review of our own risk assessments, the Willows Academy Trust schools have agreed on enhanced procedures to protect our school communities. This will allow us to reduce the risk of reaching the point of an outbreak and having to isolate groups, classes, year groups or the whole school. Your support with these measures is greatly appreciated.

Contact Definitions

The government defines a **close contact** as;

“A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact any time from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from 2 days before the date their positive test was taken) and up to 10 days after – as this is when they can pass the infection on to others. A risk assessment may be undertaken to determine this, but a contact can be:

- *anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19*
- *anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:*
 - *face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre*
 - *been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
 - *been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)*
- *A person may also be a close contact if they have travelled in the same vehicle or plane as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.”*

High Risk Close Contact – as defined by Willows Academy Trust schools

At Willows Academy Trust (WAT), in order to protect our school communities and reduce the risk of reaching the point of an outbreak, we are identifying **‘high risk close contacts’**.

A ‘high risk close contact’ is someone who is a close contact for a prolonged period of time and usually indoors. Examples might include;

- Living in the same household
- Sitting next to someone in class for a full day, morning or afternoon
- Having a sleepover at a household
- Sharing a car
- Sharing accommodation or going on holiday

The contact can be any time from two days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from two days before their positive test was taken), and up to 10 days after.

At Willows Academy Trust, in order to protect our school communities and reduce the risk of reaching the point of an outbreak, we are asking that high risk close contacts do not attend school until a negative PCR test is received.

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

No. A child with Covid symptoms should access a PCR test.

If positive, they will need to self-isolate for 7 days. Self-isolation can end after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day.

If negative and they are well, they can then return to school however we would strongly recommend taking LFD tests for 7 days.

Generally, the symptoms of COVID are: a high temperature

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-Covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>)

What will Willows Academy Trust be asking you to do?

For **Contacts** – *as defined by government* **AND**

High Risk Close Contacts – *as defined by Willows Academy Trust*

(see above for definitions)

We will contact families individually and ask them to take their child for a PCR test and keep the child at home until the result is received. If the test is:

- **positive**, they will need to self-isolate for 7 days. Self-isolation can end after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. and follow guidance given by the NHS.
- **negative and they are well**, they can then return to school however we would strongly recommend taking LFD tests for 7 days.

Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the risk assessment to protect our school communities.

Where there is a positive case in a year group:

- All other children in the year group can continue to attend school. Families will be informed that there is a positive case in the year group and be advised to administer LFD tests for 7 days. If your child develops symptoms, isolate immediately and book a PCR.

FAQs

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

Not immediately. At Willows Academy Trust, in order to protect our school communities and reduce the risk of reaching the point of outbreak, we are asking that children who have a positive case in the household have a PCR test and do not attend school whilst they are awaiting the results. Once a negative result has been confirmed then the child can return to school and it is strongly advised that they commence seven days of LFD testing. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people and get a PCR test.

Please note: This is an enhanced measure based on the risk assessment to protect our school communities.

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

Yes. The child can continue to attend school providing they have no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms, isolate immediately and book a PCR.

Across the academy trust, we have already experienced situations where COVID-19 has spread through a household whilst they were awaiting PCR results and this then came into school. We would therefore strongly recommend that if someone in your household develops symptoms, that you seriously consider PCR testing all members of the household and isolate pending results. Even if the test is negative, we strongly recommend that all members of the household should then complete a lateral flow test (LFD) for the following seven days due to extended incubation periods of the virus.

We have found that some families are receiving results in less than 24 hours.

Please note: We recognise that this is an enhanced measure: your support with these measures would be greatly appreciated.

If my child is identified as a close contact from within school or from the community, what do I do?

Anyone who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take an LFD test every day for seven days in the morning before they attend school or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFD tests are positive or they develop symptoms they should self-isolate in order to protect other people and get a PCR test. Your child can continue to attend school during this testing period.

If someone in the class has symptoms, what happens?

If a child displays symptoms during the school day, we will contact their family and arrange for them to be sent home. We will use the contact details on our system so please ensure that these are kept up to date. Anyone with Covid symptoms must get a PCR test and self-isolate whilst awaiting the results.

If someone in the class tests positive, what happens?

If a child receives a positive PCR result, that child will need to self-isolate for 7 days. Self-isolation can end after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. If your child is considered a high risk close contact, we will contact you individually and ask you to take your child for a PCR test and keep the child at home until the result is received.

We will advise all other children in the year group to begin seven day LFD testing.

Does my child need to take regular lateral flow tests?

This is not currently a requirement for primary schools, however, in the current climate of rising cases, we would highly recommend this.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow device tests to help identify early onset of Covid and catch asymptomatic cases.

What happens if lots of children at the school test positive?

If this happens, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise us whether any additional action is required. This may include wider testing or targeted closures of certain groups or classes. We may implement further protective measures as per our Outbreak Management Plan.

What happens if a member of staff tests positive?

The staff member will self-isolate for 7 days. The children will either be taught by a cover member of staff or supply teacher. If the teacher is well enough, they will be completing their wider duties remotely. Depending on the circumstances, the teacher may also teach remotely. If the teacher is unwell, they will not be working remotely and will be resting and recovering. Where no cover staff are available, we may consider closing the class.

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

Yes. We will implement our remote education plan for any child self-isolating at home, if they are well enough. We will expect them to complete all work set if well enough and staff will liaise with parents as appropriate.

Will school let us know if there is a positive case?

We will aim to keep parents informed and contact those directly affected by a positive case.

If a parent has been a close contact of a confirmed case, please follow this link for further advice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

In all circumstances, please keep your child's school updated about any symptoms, close contacts, or positive cases within your household.

If you have any other questions, please get in touch with your child's school and they will be happy to help.