



The Edith Borthwick School

COVID 19 Operational Guidance

Updated: 24/2/22

The Edith Borthwick School will adopt this guidance from 28/2/22

WHAT IS THE CURRENT NATIONAL & LOCAL SITUATION?

The government is removing remaining domestic restrictions in England from 24/2/22. The new national strategy is called 'Living with COVID-19'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains

DfE [Special school guidance](#) states that our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL'S VIEW?

We are committed to providing a safe environment and have undertaken a robust risk assessment to minimise, as reasonably as we can, against the risk presented within school. We have considered government guidance and alongside support from Essex County Council, we have produced a detailed plan to ensure all learners, their families, school staff and visitors are as safe as possible while they are on site.

At The Edith Borthwick School, a range of approaches and actions will be taken. These can be seen as a set of controls that, when in place, creates a much safer system where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.

Our risk assessment has been updated and this can be found on the school website. We will be reviewing the RA and plan regularly, taking into account any change in strategy.

HOW IS THE SCHOOL ORGANISED NOW?

Learners will continue to be organised into distinct class groups, which will be their base.

Over this term, we will cautiously reduce some restrictions in line with local infection rates.

A suggested timeline is:

Wk beginning	Action
28/2/22	We encourage staff and secondary aged learners to wear face coverings in communal areas and busy areas of school (corridors, staff room, hall). <i>This is no longer mandatory and we ask our community to respect personal choice.</i> Very limited mixing of bubbles for specific learning opportunities, e.g. options in Upper school.
7/3/22	Well known, regular visiting professionals, e.g. Anita from Cheeky Chimps, Laughter Specialists, can return to delivering in class sessions (in line with other control measures – regular lateral flow tests, symptom free & cleaning equipment)
14/3/22	Small groups may visit public places, such as supermarkets and museum.
AFTER EASTER (if safe to do so)	Return to learners dining in the hall. Return to phase assemblies. Prospective parent tours can recommence.

Lateral flow testing remains operational for all staff, staff are expected to complete two lateral flow tests per week (on Mondays and Thursdays), tests are provided. The government will review this on 1st April 2022.

CONTROL MEASURES

You should:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone, including regular hand washing & 'catch it, kill it, bin it'
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes in line with [government guidance](#).
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing and isolation.

It is important that we all keep up to date with current guidance in order to look after yourself and keep others safe.

Mixing and 'bubbles'

In the short term, we aim to keep learners in bubbles most of the time and limit social mixing to prevent any potential spread. We will review this weekly and relax measures in line with infection rates as appropriate.

Face coverings

We encourage staff and secondary aged learners to wear face coverings in communal areas and busy areas of school (corridors, staff room, hall).

This is no longer mandatory and we ask our community to respect personal choice.

SCHOOL MEALS

The school kitchen is fully open and the menu can be found on the website.

At present, meals will be delivered to classes and they will eat in class.

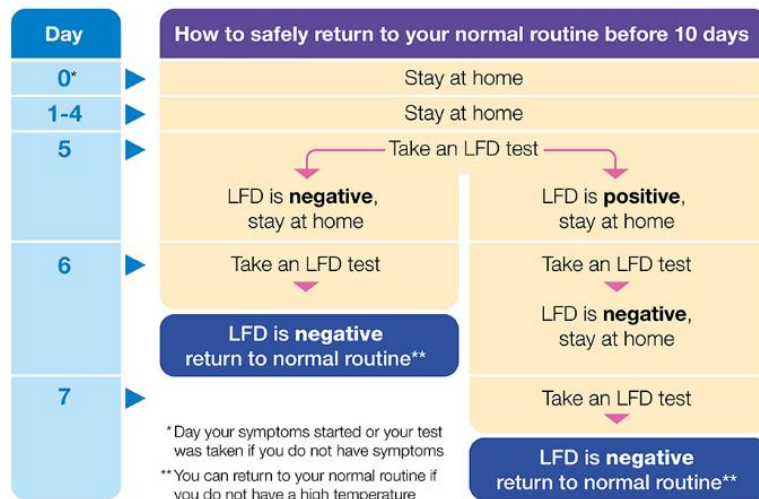
We hope that learners will be able to eat in the hall after Easter.

LEARNER OR ADULT WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE

The school continues to ask staff and secondary aged learners to engage in twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

As of Thursday 24 February 2022, the Government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test.

Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days or until the 10th day.



Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be required to test daily for 7 days, and the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate has been removed.

Routine contact tracing will end. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.

IF YOU/YOUR CHILD ARE SYMPTOMATIC:

We ask that our whole community remains mindful of COVID symptoms (persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste/smell). If you/your child are not well enough to attend school, then please stay at home and only return if well enough.

Lateral flow testing can support your decision making around when is safe to return (please see diagram above)

CLEANING

Each class bubble is provided with essential cleaning supplies and PPE, including anti-bacterial spray, hand soap, alcohol gel, washing up liquid, screen cleaner, disposable cloths, gloves, aprons and where appropriate visors.

Surfaces that children are touching, such as, books, desks, chairs, doors, sinks, toilets, light switches, bannisters, class resources will be cleaned more regularly than normal by class based staff.

Staff will wipe down surfaces, equipment, chairs frequently throughout the day and ensure all doors and windows are closed at the end of the day to enable the cleaning team to clean thoroughly.

Staff with responsibilities to clean will follow the [PHE guidance on cleaning for non-healthcare settings](#). Specified COVID cleaning staff will cleaning frequently used areas, such as door handles and bannisters, throughout the day.

Each room will be 'misted' with disinfectant at least once per week and after any symptoms have been seen.