

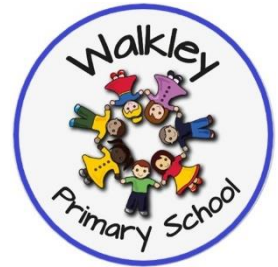
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'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

30th November 2021

Covid – 19 Update to Parents – face coverings and Isolation guidance for Omicron variant Infection

Dear parents/carers

There are 2 updates to the Schools Operational Guidance to bring to your attention that reflect the measures announced on 28th November. The guidance in full can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036663/Schools_guidance_update_for_Omicron_-_29_Nov.pdf

Isolation

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

Further actions for educational settings may be advised by a local Incident Management Team (IMT) investigating a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

For everyone else, isolation rules are unchanged. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, 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. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 who is not a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, should continue to attend school as normal.

Face coverings

Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19

In primary schools, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings.

See [Circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings](#) for exceptions to this.

We ask that any visitors to school wear a mask whilst inside the school building. Our staff have continued to do this throughout the pandemic and your support with this will be much appreciated.

As always, as we address the latest guidance and advice we have our community: pupils, parents and staff and all of their extended families at the heart of our efforts to minimise risk at Walkley Primary School and we thank you for your support with the measures in place.

Yours sincerely

Chris Wallis

Acting Headteacher