

Hackney Education
Hackney Council
1 Reading Lane
Hackney
London
E8 1GQ

To: All parents and carers with children at
Hackney maintained schools, free schools
and academies - secondary

11 January 2022 (updated 17/01/2022)

Dear parents and carers,

Covid-19 Actions for School/College Pupils - 11-19

I wish all our parents & carers a happy new year and I hope your child has had a good start to the Spring term 2022. Thank you for your support to keep our schools and settings open and running as safely and effectively as possible.

I wrote to you on [30 December 2021](#) setting out a number of measures introduced in schools and colleges to help reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection. This is a follow up letter for parents/carers of pupils age 11-19.

Face coverings are expected to be worn by secondary age pupils and staff in communal areas at all times in school. It is also expected that pupils wear face coverings in the classroom.

Possible staff absences: With the current level of Covid-19, some schools may find a number of staff and pupils will need to stay home to isolate or because they are ill. Our schools are doing all they can to limit the impact of this. It is possible that some classes may need to be taught by someone other than the usual class teacher or that short term changes to the normal routine of school may need to be made (e.g., online learning from home, staggered start times, etc).

If online learning from home is required, vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will continue to be able to access onsite learning onsite in school.

Vaccination

This remains an important part of managing the pandemic and reducing the risk of the spread of the virus. Adults over 18 and young people aged 12-17 can easily be



vaccinated to protect themselves from serious illness, reduce transmission and protect the most vulnerable. Adults should also get a booster vaccination 3 months after their 2nd vaccination. NB: Young people aged 12-15 will require parental consent but can get vaccinated in Hackney at either John Scott Health Centre or Bocking Street vaccination centre, with a second vaccination given so long as it is over 12 weeks since their first vaccination. See [Hackney's website](#) for more information.

Testing and Isolation

There have also been a number of changes announced regarding testing & isolation. I have summarised these below to help you understand what we are asking you and your child to do and when it is safe for your child to come into school.

Regular Testing

All young people in year 7 and above should take lateral flow device (LFD) tests at least twice a week. We also encourage all parents & carers and other family members to take these rapid tests at the same time.

When to isolate: If your child develops symptoms

If your child develops [Covid-19 symptoms](#) (e.g., high temperature, dry cough and/or a loss of taste or sense of smell), they must not attend school or college and must isolate immediately. You should also [arrange for a PCR test](#).

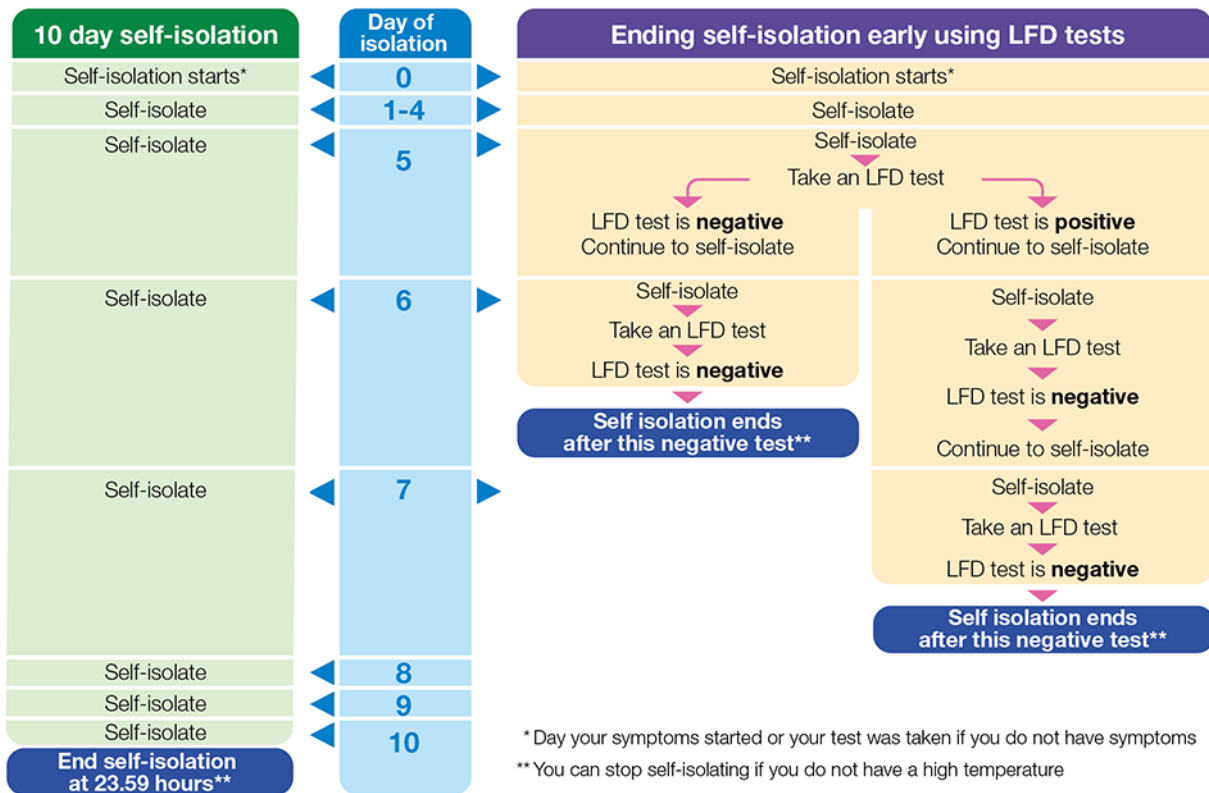
If your child is otherwise unwell (e.g., sore throat, headache, fatigue), they are not required to isolate and should attend school if they are well enough to do so. We would still encourage you to test them, ideally with a PCR test.

When to isolate: If your child tests positive

Anyone who tests positive (by either PCR or LFD test) is required to isolate for 10 full days, from the day on which their symptoms started (or on which they took the test, if they don't have any symptoms).

An individual may, however, now be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 5 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result.

For your child, we ask that if the 2 tests are taken within 24 hours of each other and both are negative, your child can return to school from day 7 (even if the 2nd negative result was received early in the morning on day 6).



If your child is a contact of someone with COVID

If your child is identified as having been in contact with someone with COVID, they will **not** be required to isolate, and should still attend school as normal. However, they should take a lateral flow test **every day for seven days before they come into school** – this applies to both primary and secondary pupils. They may be asked to do this by NHS Test and Trace, or by their school. During this period, we strongly recommend that they minimise social contact, especially with any vulnerable or elderly people.

If someone living in your home has Covid-19, your child may still attend school, so long as they do not have symptoms and have taken a lateral flow test with a negative result that day. This requirement may change depending on local circumstances within your school, so please do keep your school informed if anyone in your household tests positive.

By following the above requirements, you'll be making sure that you're doing everything you can to protect your own family and friends as well as supporting our schools and settings to stay open and keep as many children & young people attending as possible.

Yours sincerely

Annie Gammon
Director of Education

Dr Sandra Husbands
Director of Public Health