



21<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, national guidance states that once we reach five linked cases in school, we are to work with Public Health to put in extra measures to prevent further spread.

The new guidance on Covid-19 control prioritises keeping children in school and states that all close contacts of cases need to book a PCR test immediately unless they have PCR tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days. Close contacts that meet the following criteria do not need to self-isolate:

- children under 18 and 6 months
- adults who have been double vaccinated

Close contacts do not need to isolate while they wait for their PCR result. Only children who test positive need to self-isolate. Children in the same class as someone who has tested positive do not need to self-isolate.

We wish to prevent the spread of Covid-19 as much as possible, therefore we encourage more children to take the twice a week LFT testing, and for close contacts to ensure they book a PCR test immediately.

This does not change the national guidance that if you have a cough, change or loss in smell or taste, a high temperature or if you test positive by LFT you must self-isolate and get a PCR test. If that is negative, you can return to usual activity.

The main actions in school will be:

- Informing our school community of cases – to increase the proportion of pupils / students to undertake twice weekly rapid asymptomatic home testing and reporting. Being aware of Covid-19 in school and looking out for wider symptoms of Covid-19 such as sore throat, flu-like symptoms, muscle aches.
- Anyone with the main three symptoms which are a new or worsening cough, loss or change of taste and/or smell and a high temperature should not come to school but get a PCR test and return only if negative.
- Increased frequency of LFT testing (potentially daily for close contacts) and relying on wider groups of contacts undergoing PCR testing (again there is no need to isolate when waiting for the PCR test result and anyone who has recently tested positive for Covid-19 do not need to undergo a test).

Further options available should cases increase:

- Reinstating on-site rapid testing for a two-week period to encourage uptake of twice weekly testing

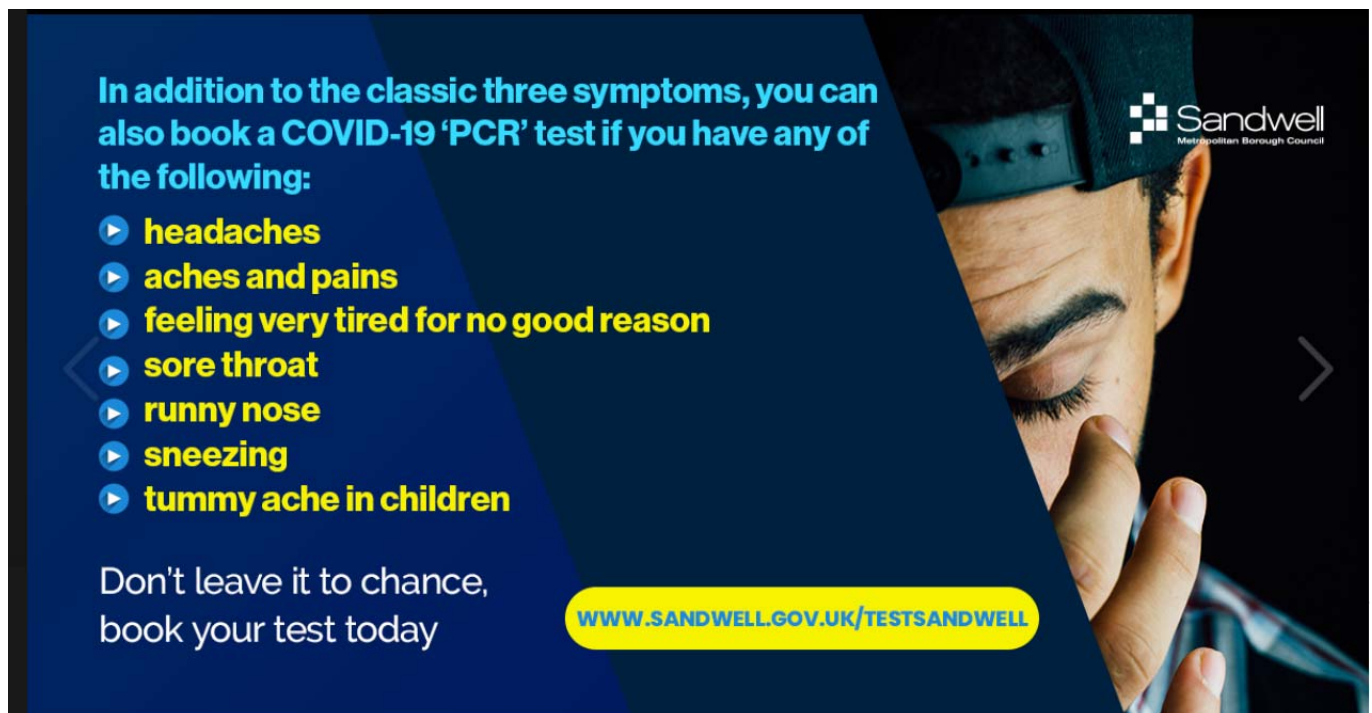
- Temporarily reinstating face coverings for pupils/students, staff and visitors in indoor and/or communal spaces

This week we encourage as many children as possible to take the home LFTs to prevent further spread in school. Close contacts will take a PCR. As always, we thank our school community for continuing to do all they can to keep the community safe

Many thanks



Mr J Topham  
Headteacher



**In addition to the classic three symptoms, you can also book a COVID-19 'PCR' test if you have any of the following:**

- ▶ **headaches**
- ▶ **aches and pains**
- ▶ **feeling very tired for no good reason**
- ▶ **sore throat**
- ▶ **runny nose**
- ▶ **sneezing**
- ▶ **tummy ache in children**

Don't leave it to chance,  
book your test today

[WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/TESTSANDWELL](http://WWW.SANDWELL.GOV.UK/TESTSANDWELL)

