



19 April 2022

New guidance in relation to attendance: Living with COVID-19:

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you enjoyed a peaceful Easter holiday. We sincerely hope this might be one of our last communications of this nature, but please read all of this information carefully to help us with attendance and safety.

You will be aware that new Government advice concerning "living with COVID-19" came into effect on 1 April 2022. Lateral Flow tests and PCR tests are no longer *freely* available via the NHS except for certain extremely vulnerable groups of people, and so we are adopting a new set of guidelines for attendance where a student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

The symptoms of COVID-19, flu and other respiratory illnesses are all very similar, and so (without a test) it is not possible to tell which of these you are suffering from, based on symptoms alone. Therefore, students with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, should continue to attend school. However, the one symptom which remains the highest predictor of a possible Covid-19 infection is a high temperature. Therefore, young people who are unwell and have a **high temperature** (38 degrees or above) **should stay at home** and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can come back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

Also, it is no longer recommended that young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. If a young person does have a positive COVID-19 test result they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. After 3 days, if they feel well and no longer have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower and so they should return to school.

Young people who usually go to school and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend school as normal.

Therefore, **when reporting all absences, it is really important that you clearly state whether your child has a temperature or not**, whether this is via email absence@roundwoodpark.co.uk, telephone [Absence line on 01582 714049], or via the Edulink App, before 8.30am on the day of absence. Your support is very much appreciated.

Many thanks

Glen Pettengell
Deputy Headteacher

Louise Evans
School Attendance Officer

