

## [WALSALL PUBLIC health update – April 2022](#)

### **RE: Living safely with COVID-19 - Changes to COVID-19 guidance (1 April 2022)**

The Government has outlined further steps as part of their 'Living with COVID-19' strategy. From today (1 April), free COVID-19 tests will only be available to help protect specific groups including people working for the NHS or in social care, going into hospital, or are at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. Testing has been a valuable tool in our continued approach to containing the virus.

The majority of Walsall school staff have routinely used testing to know whether they had COVID-19 before going to work. The changes by Government mean that a substantial proportion of people will no longer be testing for the virus.

- 1. Please continue to keep children / young people off school if they are unwell or have symptoms of COVID-19**
  - Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
  - It is particularly important to avoid close contact with anyone who you know is at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell if they are infected with COVID-19.
  - It is recommended to wait at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped or when you no longer have a high temperature.
  
- 2. If a person can still access COVID-19 testing, they should stay at home if testing positive**
  - Adults who have access to COVID testing and have a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.
  - **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is 3 days.**
  
- 3. Continue to maintain infection prevention control measures within your setting. As a minimum, education settings should continue with the key principles for infection control to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.**
  - Maintain frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitiser throughout the day
  - Ensure good respiratory hygiene for everyone – Catch it, Kill it, Bin it
  - Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
  - Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
  - Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of national vaccination programmes including COVID-19 and flu
  - Follow public health advice on managing COVID-19 and any other infectious diseases.