

# Garden Fields J.M.I School

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Growing Hearts and Minds

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## School Update: 21st January 2022

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I have some important updates around the current Covid situation this week, which are detailed below.

### **Covid Precautions**

Although there has been some relaxation of Covid restrictions nationally this week, including in secondary schools. At Garden Fields we continue to operate in Year group bubbles, avoiding mixing of year groups, ventilate our buildings and maintain good hygiene and cleaning. Adults also continue to wear masks in the communal areas and for some vulnerable staff when working closely with children.

We have seen an increase this week to about 40 cases although around 20 children are due back on Monday and a number of others on Tuesday. It may be that the week just gone has been the peak for us but we cannot be certain and therefore need to remain vigilant.

Where cases are high across year groups, or in particular classes, we are recommending that children are tested before returning to school and have regular LFTs where possible – although we are aware of course that access to LFTs is currently difficult.

### **Covid Isolation Periods**

We updated our standard notification letters this week, so please ignore any earlier versions that insist on a 10-day isolation period, as this has now been reduced to 5-days in certain circumstances. There are also circumstances in which you will still be required to isolate for longer.

Here is some guidance from HCC regarding current isolation periods which explains how the new isolation period works.

*Isolation periods for people who test positive for COVID-19 have changed*

*From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature. The day when you developed symptoms or tested positive is counted as day zero.*

*For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.*



The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported at

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

The new rules also apply to people who are already isolating – so if someone was already isolating before Monday 17 January, they can take LFD tests on day 5 and 6 and if they are both negative and they have no temperature they can end their isolation.

You may find this table useful:

#### How five-day isolation rule works in England



For example:

- Child A tested positive on 14 January, which is day zero. They could take an LFD test today, 19 January at 8am and another on 20 January at 8am and proving both tests are negative, the child can return to school on 20 January.
- Child B tested positive on 14 January, they do an LFD test on 19 January and it is positive. They will need to test on 20 January and 21 January which will both have to be negative before they can end self-isolation and return to the setting.

- *If a child or member of staff continue testing positive up until day 10, they can end self-isolation on day 11, with day zero being the day they originally developed symptoms or tested positive.*

*Anyone unable to take LFD tests or who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day self-isolation period.*

*This change applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.*

*Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available at:*

*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>*

*Reminder that FAQs and other documents may have changed, please keep an eye on the Grid and check regularly for updated information: <https://thegrid.org.uk/covid-19/key-documents-for-schools>*

I hope this makes sense!

Have a good weekend everyone

**Mr Farrugia**

