



Layton Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Clucas

Thursday 16th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the press conference yesterday held by the Prime Minister, Sir Patrick Vallance and Chris Whitty, it seems a good time to update our school community in the current COVID situation in Blackpool.

Blackpool is currently the second highest area in the country for COVID cases, at 661 cases per 100,000 of the population. Over 50 people are in hospital currently; vaccines are having an impact in reducing the number of hospitalisations, however as restrictions have been eased, the virus is spreading both in schools and the general population. Several Blackpool schools, including ourselves, have noted rising cases of COVID. It is likely that in the future, dependent on how fast the numbers rise, schools may be asked to reintroduce some restrictions, such as face coverings on school premises. This is dependent on government advice; should the government decide to introduce these, we will of course write to parents to inform you of this.

In the meantime, I would like to make you aware of the current arrangements the school has in place within our risk assessment. This is to limit the spread of COVID and to ensure both children and staff are able to teach and learn as we would normally do, at this time.

1. Please do not send children to school if they are suffering the following symptoms: new continuous cough and/or, fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher), loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).
2. The delta variant sometimes presents symptoms similar to tiredness, aching joints and headaches, and in some cases stomach upsets in children. Whilst these are not on the official symptoms list, we are remaining vigilant for these symptoms.

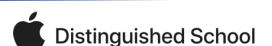
If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via www.nhs.uk, www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by contacting NHS 119. Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

The Director of Public Health has advised, if anyone in the household tests positive, other members of the household should organise a PCR test prior to returning to school. We are following this advice for all staff in school.

Please contact the school to inform us if your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test. Please phone us if this is within normal school hours. Outside of school hours (including weekends) please email covid@layton.blackpool.sch.uk

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic





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Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?

If your child does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19. They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19

Your child should not attend school if they are unwell. If concerned, please access a Lateral Flow Test or seek advice from the GP or Pharmacist. We continue to advise parents to keep children off for sickness for a period of 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer.

We hope that this is clear, however please do contact the school if you would like advice on the guidelines. We understand that the advice has changed significantly, over the course of the pandemic, and we are here to support our school community through this time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Jonathan Clucas
Headteacher

