

## **Absence Procedures - COVID-19**

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October 2023

### **Testing**

You are no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if you have symptoms.

### **Self-Isolation**

If someone finds out they've tested positive for covid-19 (coronavirus) or has covid symptoms, there is no longer a legal requirement to self-isolate at home. If someone has covid symptoms or has tested positive, they should follow the public health advice and any policy their organisation has in place. The expectations at Unity Schools Partnership are that normal sickness absence procedures and sick pay applies. In particular, there is no longer an expectation that someone who had tested positive has to stay off work for 5 days.

### **Symptoms**

Should you have common symptoms of a cold include coughing, low-grade fever, a sore throat, sneezing and a blocked or runny nose; there is no need to be off work.

Should you have the 'flu', commonly causes symptoms such as high fever, dry cough, muscle ache and fatigue and are feeling unwell, you should not attend work until you are well enough to do so.

Should you have COVID-19 symptoms and have a high temperature, you should stay at home and return to work when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

### **Those with a weakened immune system**

If any member of staff or the school community have a weakened immune system and wish to have an individual risk assessment in place, please do speak with the Headteacher or Head of Department for the central team, who can seek advice from HR when required.

### **Protection**

The most effective protection against severe disease from COVID-19 for everyone, including those at higher risk from COVID-19, is to get vaccinated.

### **What measures should schools be taking to stop the spread?**

Infection prevention and control measures that will help to manage the spread of infection:

- Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as regular hand washing and cleaning.
- Ensuring occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in.
- Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the [offer of national vaccination programmes including COVID-19 and flu](#)

*We will continue to monitor the situation and if/when necessary amend our guidance in line with the advice from Public Health/DfE.*