

October 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers

### COVID-19 measures in our schools

Thank you for everything you have done to keep your family and our school community safe during the coronavirus pandemic and for your patience in supporting your child's school at this difficult time. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not yet over and cases of COVID-19 are continuing to rise in York.

In the last few weeks we have seen a rise in the number of children and young people testing positive for COVID-19. Local Public Health tell us we are now in a position where we are beginning to see pressures starting to build on the NHS again. Children are passing infection to family members and into local communities and this is leading to rising infection rates in adults, particularly older adults, who tend to be more vulnerable to the effects of both COVID-19 and flu.

In light of this new information, we wanted to remind families of the COVID-19 control measures in our schools:

- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms must not attend school and should book a PCR test.
- Children who are identified as close or household contact by NHS Test and Trace must book a PCR test and take a daily Later Flow Test while awaiting the PCR test result.
- Maintaining good standards of hand hygiene. Including washing hands with soap and water when arriving at school, followed by regular handwashing or sanitising throughout the day.
- Promoting good respiratory hygiene by catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue and disposing of it in a lidded bin.
- Routine cleaning of high contact points.
- Ensuring classrooms and offices remain well ventilated by keeping doors and windows open wherever possible.
- Twice weekly testing for members of staff and secondary school students.
- Mask wearing in busy corridors, social areas and school transport for secondary school students and staff is highly recommended.

**The only children who should NOT attend school are those who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for the virus.**

If your child is eligible for the COVID-19 and/or flu vaccine we recommend that you consider the benefits of vaccination in preventing illness and the spread of infection. If your child is eligible you will be contacted by the Childhood Immunisation Team to provide consent for your child's vaccination.

Loss of smell (anosmia) or loss of taste is still one of the most important predictors of testing positive for COVID-19 rather than a regular cold, so it's an important symptom to look out for. The other main symptoms of COVID-19 are a continuous cough and fever. If your child or a member of your household has any of these symptoms, you must book a PCR test.

The school risk assessments can be found here: <https://pathfinder.academy/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-advice/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school or email us at [info@pmat.academy](mailto:info@pmat.academy).

Yours faithfully,



**Andrew Daly**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

### Our Partner Schools