

## Information for Parents regarding COVID-19 contact tracing over the half term holiday, attendance and travel advice

27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to tell you what you need to do about reporting cases of COVID-19 and contact tracing over the half term holiday period and to remind you about testing, school attendance and the rules about travelling.

### Rapid testing

Rapid testing is now available for everyone without symptoms. You can get tested at a rapid test centre in Lewisham, at work if this is offered at your workplace or you can pick up test kits at a local collection point or order them online (if you can't get to a test centre).

You can find more details [here](#). Secondary pupils and college students should continue taking twice-weekly rapid tests during half term and report results in the usual way.

### COVID-19 reporting over half term

We will continue to identify anyone who has been in close contact at school with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, up to 2 days before that person had symptoms. Those contacted will need to self-isolate for 10 days because they are at risk of having caught COVID-19 and being contagious themselves.

Please follow the guidance below if your child begins to show symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 during the half term break.

<b>If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of their last day in school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get a test for your child (<a href="#">book a PCR test</a>)</li><li>• Everyone in your household must isolate at home until the test result is back.</li><li>• <b>If the test result is positive for COVID-19, you must inform the school</b> - school will identify any other people in the school community who are close contacts.</li><li>• If the test result is negative, you do not need to take any further action.</li></ul>
<b>If your child has no symptoms of COVID-19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Let the school know straight away</b>- school will identify any other people in the school community who are close contacts.</li></ul> <p>(It is important to follow the guidance around only getting a PCR test if they are showing signs of COVID-19.)</p>
<b>If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get a test for your child (<a href="#">book a PCR test</a>)</li><li>• Everyone in your household must isolate at home until the test result is back.</li><li>• If the test result is positive for COVID-19, you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: <a href="#">NHS testing-and-tracing</a></li><li>• You do not need to tell the school.</li></ul>
The quickest way to get a PCR test is to <a href="#">book at your local testing centre</a> . Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.	

During the holidays, please contact the school by [Covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:Covid@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk) or [Headteacher@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk)

**You must provide the following:**

- **Child's name**
- **Class/year group**
- **Date last in school**
- **Date symptoms started/ child began to feel unwell**
- **Date of test**
- **Date positive result received**

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

**Attendance**

Attending school is really important for children and young people's educational progress and their wellbeing. It is important that they attend school every day.

Permission for leave during term time can only be given by the Headteacher and parents can be fined for taking their children on holiday during term-time without the school's permission. A request for leave during term time may be made in writing to the Headteacher. To be able to grant leave, the Headteacher must receive the request for leave in advance and be satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

**Traveling**

Anyone planning to travel abroad should [check the details of the green, amber and red lists of countries](#).

When visiting places on the green list all travellers must take a COVID-19 test on their return and then will not need to quarantine unless the test result is positive.

The government advises that people should not travel to amber and red list places and anyone who does travel to or through an amber or red list country is required to quarantine on their return. This includes school pupils and students. If a holiday or quarantine period coincides with term time, this absence may be unauthorised and could lead to a penalty notice. Schools are not required to provide remote learning for students who are quarantining following travel abroad. Please consider this information when arranging holidays over the half term and summer break.

We ask that you inform us if your child is returning from travelling abroad so that we can make sure the correct guidance is followed.

I know we all welcome the gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions but we need to remember the protective measures we still need to take. Hand washing, keeping social contacts to a minimum and twice weekly testing remain as important as ever!

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support.

Have a good half term

Yours sincerely

Mrs Maharasingam  
Head teacher