

NET Covid update 14.12.21

	DfE guidance	NET guidance
Attendance	School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. As usual, schools are able to grant leaves of absence for pupils in exceptional circumstances.	No change required
Face Coverings	Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 1 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider. We do not recommend that pupils and staff wear face coverings in classrooms, unless their Director of Public Health advises them to temporarily do so in one of the circumstances described in the Contingency Framework Guidance .	No change required. Reminder – staff are able to wear face coverings by personal choice at any additional times.
Wrap around Care	Schools and early years settings should continue to offer their usual before and after-school activities, including wraparound childcare. These activities provide valuable childcare for working parents and carers and promote the wellbeing of children and young people.	No change required
Isolation	All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will continue to be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test. The Government plans to introduce Daily Contact Testing as soon as possible as an alternative to self-isolation for contacts of positive Omicron cases who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.	From Tuesday 14th December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

NET Covid update 14.12.21

<p style="text-align: center;">Testing</p>	<p>We strongly encourage all those involved in education and childcare settings to continue regular testing (LFD not PCR) and reporting their results, and to encourage pupils and students in year 7 and above to test and report their results. Settings are strongly encouraged to ask parents, guardians and other visitors to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test before entering the setting.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">January return</p>	<p>We continue to learn more about the impacts of the Omicron variant. To prepare for any possible changes in public health advice, all education and childcare settings should now revisit their existing outbreak plans to ensure they are well prepared for any future changes and ensure they are familiar with the Contingency Framework Guidance. Exams and formal assessments will go ahead. Consequently, it is essential that students continue to prepare for these assessments. For those in settings closing over Christmas, all staff and students should test over the holidays in line with national guidance. We recommend all staff and eligible students take up the offer of a vaccine.</p>	<p>Update contingency plans where required e.g. remote learning plans (Anne Ansell support available)</p> <p>All trust staff to test within 24hrs prior to returning to work on 04.01.22.</p> <p>Principals to inform Matt Coleman where staff absences will result in partial or full closure of the school by 03.01.22.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Working from home</p>	<p>Office workers who can work from home should do so from Monday 13 December. Anyone who cannot work from home should continue to go into work – for example, to access equipment necessary for their role or where their role must be completed in-person. In-person working will be necessary in some cases to continue the effective and accessible delivery of some public services and private industries. We expect all education and childcare settings, including further and higher education providers, to continue to provide face-to-face teaching, and staff should continue to attend their place of work if required in order to deliver this. Teaching and learning should not be moved online as a result of the work from home guidance and we continue to expect higher education students (unless distance learners) to receive an element of face-to-face tuition. Therapists and wider children's service professionals should continue to be invited into education and childcare settings.</p> <p>Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be particularly vulnerable, clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), and high or higher-risk are not being advised to shield again. Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend their setting and should follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population. In some circumstances, a child or young person may have received personal advice from their specialist or clinician on additional precautions to take and they should continue to follow that advice.</p>	<p>Schools to make individual decisions where social distancing in offices is not possible.</p> <p>Individual risk assessment for business continuity e.g. stagger your office staff days if required.</p> <p>No further action required.</p>

NET Covid update 14.12.21

Inspection	The Secretary of State for Education and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector have agreed that early years settings, schools and colleges will not be inspected next week unless there are safeguarding concerns. Ofsted has already confirmed that secondary schools will not be inspected, unless there are urgent concerns, during the first week of schools' return in January.	No change required
------------	---	--------------------