



Guru Nanak Sikh Academy

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Founder: Sant Baba Amar Singh Ji

Executive Principal: Mr Jaskamal S. Sidhu

25th February 2022

Dear Parents, Staff and Students/Pupils

RE: Covid-19 Update

Health, safety and wellbeing of the Multi Academy Trust (MAT) community remains our top priority, even as conditions through the pandemic improve. We remain vigilant to possible outbreaks and will continue to monitor reported absences accordingly, but we are also mindful of the need to protect each other's mental health and wellbeing. In liaison with Public Health England and local Health Agencies, we will be prepared to act if any outbreak occurs that places students/pupils or staff at additional risk.

The following actions have been applied by Government:

On Monday 21st February, the Prime Minister set out [government plans](#) for living with Coronavirus, removing remaining legal restrictions whilst protecting people most vulnerable to Covid-19 and maintaining resilience.

The MAT continues to remain vigilant and ask for your support in adapting to updated government guidelines and legislative changes.

From 21st February the Government have:

- Removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing.

From 24 February the Government have:

- Removed the **legal** requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- Ended self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- Ended routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.
- Ended the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.

- Revoked The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations.
- Daily testing for students/pupils under the age of 18 and staff close contacts is removed.

Staff will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, however please follow the above measure of not attending the school site if you are unwell.

From 28th February:

- Face coverings will no longer be legally required to be worn during the school day. For some, wearing a face covering may continue to be part of their own personal health care practice and we expect everyone to follow our SHARE values and principles by respecting and supporting each other in their personal choices.

Asymptomatic Testing:

- Secondary students will no longer be required to conduct asymptomatic testing. The MAT will no longer be distributing test kits to students or staff as part of government plan for living with Covid-19.

If you require home test kits, please be aware that universal free tests for symptomatic and asymptomatic people will no longer be available from 1st April. If you are displaying symptoms of Covid-19 you can still [order your Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) rapid lateral flow tests](#) via gov.uk.

However, where this is no longer a legal requirement, as with any illness or communicable virus, we ask that anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 not to attend our school site.

With our continuous wellbeing and support structures within the MAT, we will aim to update parents, students/pupils and staff if further changes are made from any legal or government updates to the measures.

Covid-19 Category Groups

As part of ongoing measures of support; where Government has [updated isolation guidance](#) for those clinically vulnerable or extremely vulnerable; any student/pupil related cases must be reported to welfare@gnsa.co.uk.

Staff related cases must be reported to HR@gnsa.co.uk.

Additional Support - Government Updates

The Department for Education is modifying its operational guidance for schools, which will increasingly be replaced by general guidelines from the UK Health Security Agency. Travel advice will come from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

In line with Covid-19 provisions from 24th March, support allowances within Statutory Sick Pay will be removed.

New Public Health guidance is expected to be released on 1st April, at which point:

- Risk assessments will no longer be required. We will continue to monitor our risks through our risk register.
- Remove the current guidance on voluntary Covid-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS Covid Pass.
- Update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing.
- No longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.
- Consolidate guidance to the public and businesses, in line with public health advice.
- Remove the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider Covid-19 in their risk assessments.
- Replace the existing set of 'Working Safely' guidance with new public health guidance.

We urge everyone eligible to be fully vaccinated; as this is the best personal and social protection against disease and severe illness. Information is available about the UK's [vaccination programme for young people](#) and for [clinically vulnerable children ages 5-11](#). The NHS will begin a [non-urgent rollout of vaccinations for children ages 5-12](#) in April and we urge parents to consult with their GP about how best to increase protection against future waves of Covid-19.

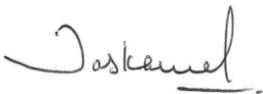
Please continue to check information on [Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) latest insights](#) which will provide you with the latest data and trends regarding the virus.

Those pregnant or extremely clinically vulnerable individuals and those who live with and support them may continue to be at risk.

More detailed information regarding the above can be found on the official government website: [Government Guidelines](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr J S Sidhu
Executive Principal