

COVID-19

Information and Guidance for Parents, Carers and Students

Guidance on Self-Isolation

The NHS will continue to instruct individuals to self-isolate via *NHS Test & Trace* if health officials believe they have been in close contact with a case of COVID-19. Schools and academies are no longer required to carry out contact tracing and can only instruct pupils / students to self-isolate if advised to do so by the NHS or Public Health England or the DfE (Department for Education).

The NHS issued new guidance on self-isolation on 18 August and no longer requires an individual to self-isolate if they have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, for the following reasons:

From the NHS website:

When you do not need to self-isolate:

If someone you live with has symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive for COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

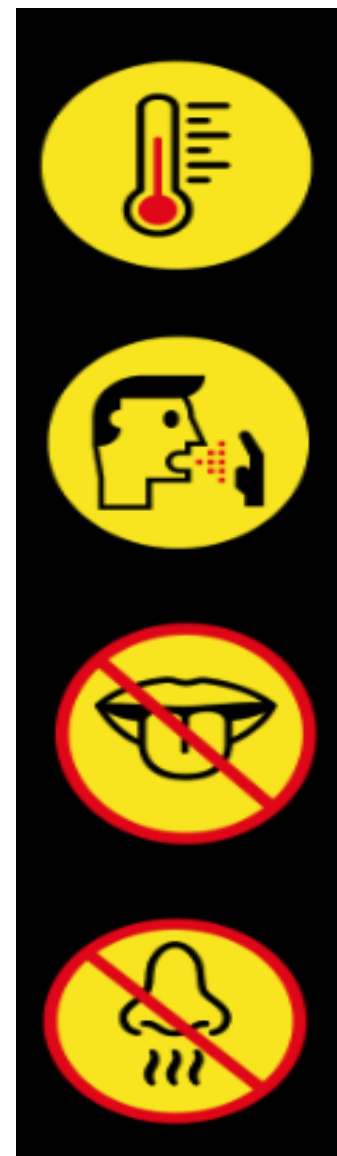
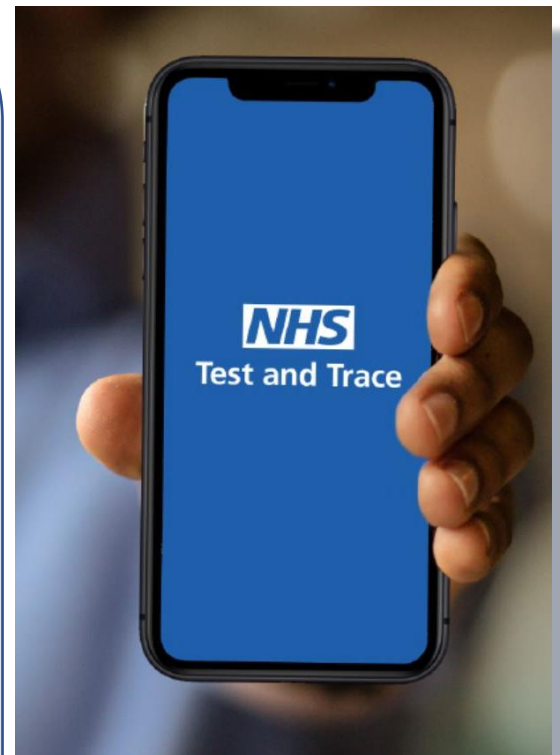
- get a PCR test on GOV.UK to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19
- consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk from COVID-19

Tell people you've been in close contact with that you have symptoms:

- Tell people you've been in close contact with in the past 48 hours that you might have COVID-19.
- You should tell them to follow advice on how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19.
- They do not need to self-isolate unless they're contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service.
- If they get any symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate and get a test as soon as possible.

For full details, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>



Managing COVID-19 at schools and academies:

Whereas it appears the DfE and NHS have instructed school and academies to 'step down' their COVID-secure measures, educational institutions will continue to play a key role in helping health protection teams, especially if there are rising cases in settings or in the case of a local outbreak. The DfE and *NHS Test & Trace* have asked all schools and academies to:

- offer two rapid flow tests (lateral flow device tests) to students when they return to education in September 2021.
- provide students with home-testing kits so they can continue to carry out twice-weekly testing at home (3 to 5 days apart), at least until the end of September 2021.
- provide members of staff with home-testing kits so they can continue to carry out twice-weekly testing at home (3 to 5 days apart), at least until the end of September 2021.
- maintain cleaning regimes in the setting, to ensure all frequently-touched surfaces and areas are cleaned regularly.
- maintain hand-sanitising stations and protective screens (where necessary), especially in busy or frequently-used areas of the setting.
- to maintain clear and effective contingency plans (or outbreak management plans) should the number of confirmed cases in the setting reach such a level where it is necessary to introduce additional COVID-secure arrangements (under the advice of the NHS and Public Health England).
- to treat risk assessments as 'living documents' and to remain vigilant over COVID-secure arrangements, particularly when organising specific events and gatherings, in order to mitigate any risk.

COVID-19 Know The Facts



COVID-19 spreads primarily from person to person



- Droplets released when someone sick sneezes or coughs can land on the mouths or noses of people nearby
- Close contact with someone sick – like hugging or shaking hands

COVID-19 mainly spreads from person to person But it can also be left on objects and surfaces...



So if you touch something contaminated and then touch your face or another's face, you might all fall ill.

CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



BIN IT

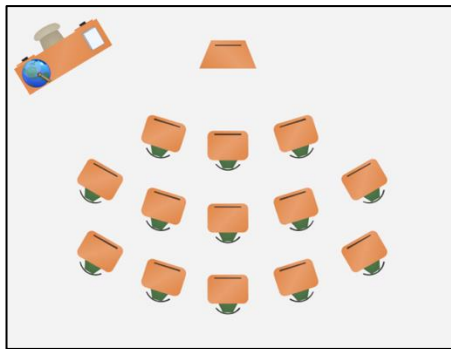
Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as possible.





What can students expect when they return to BOA in September 2021?

Our priority remains the safety and wellbeing of BOA students and staff. As students begin a new academic year, there will be a range of measures taken to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19, in line with government guidelines. It is vital, therefore, that students take note of all health and safety instructions given and then follow them. Amongst other measures, students can expect:

- Access to asymptomatic testing and home testing kits
- One-way systems to minimise over-crowding in corridors (where practicable)
- Some adjustments to timetables and timings of the Academy day, to avoid overcrowding in busy areas
- Perspex screens in certain areas of the building (such as reception)
- Seating plans, forward-facing seat arrangements and clear studio protocols
- Hand-sanitiser stations around the building

Face coverings are no longer advised for students, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Despite this new ruling, BOA is supportive of students and staff who wish to continue wearing face coverings around the building and during lessons.

Whereas the government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings, there is still an expectation that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces, where you may come into contact with people you do not normally meet. This includes on public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

You can find out more about the protective measures within educational settings here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Contact tracing at BOA

As mentioned above, schools and academies are no longer required to carry out contact tracing in the same way as last academic year. However, we would encourage parents and carers to inform BOA of any positive cases (which can only be confirmed by a PCR test) as it is essential the Academy monitors the any cases, which will inform our ongoing risk assessments and operating procedures. At the same time, we would be grateful to receive details of potential close contact with BOA students and members of staff, so that we can safeguard against any potential spread within the setting.

Please report positive cases to the Attendance Officer when informing the Academy of your child's absence (0121 359 9300) or email details to attendance@boa-academy.co.uk.