

29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to update you on the latest government advice in relation to Covid-19. Further to the Prime Minister's announcement on the 27th November in relation to new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK, the Department for Education has issued an updated guidance to schools.

In line with this guidance and to look after our school community in these uncertain times, we will reintroduce face coverings in the communal areas and classrooms, and will continue with the current safety measures. Please note the updated self-isolation requirements below in relation to the Omicron variant.

Students who display symptoms of Covid-19 must not attend school until they receive a negative PCR test or unless they have completed a full 10 days of self-isolation.

Face coverings

From Tuesday 30th November, we will require all students, staff and visitors to wear a face covering in communal areas such as corridors, stairwells and indoor social spaces, unless exempt. Students will also be required to wear a face covering in classrooms, unless exempt.

Students should continue to wear face coverings on public transport, unless exempt.

Testing

We encourage students and staff to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests and to upload the test results on the government website. Home test kits were distributed to Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 last week. We will distribute the tests to Year 9, 12 and 13 this week and we will provide another batch of tests to students before the end of the term.

Home test kits can also be obtained from the school office.

If your home (self-reported) LFD test result is positive

If your child's LFD test was taken at home (self-reported) and the test result is positive, your child should self-isolate immediately. Your child's household members should follow the government guidance on self-isolation (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection?utm_source=28%20November%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#samehousehold).

You should also arrange for your child to have a follow-up PCR test as soon as possible. If the follow-up PCR test result is negative, your child and their household contacts can stop self-isolating.

Testing after your child's isolation period has ended

If your child has tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, they will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current government guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. Close contacts will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace and told to isolate.

If you are notified by NHS Test and Trace of your child's positive test result your child must complete their full isolation period. Your child's self-isolation period starts immediately from when their symptoms started, or, if they did not have any symptoms, from when they took the test. Your child's self-isolation period includes the day their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

Persons under 18 years and 6 months, are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19.

Parents/carers of a child who has been told to self-isolate may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the [Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#).

If your child has been identified as a contact of a positive Covid-19 case, they should take a PCR test as soon as possible whether or not they have symptoms. If the test is positive, they should complete a full 10 days of self-isolation.

Vaccination

The government advice is that all eligible students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine as vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccination for your child, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

Symptoms of Covid-19

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if your child has any of the symptoms above, even if the symptoms are mild, they should stay at home and arrange to have a test.

There are several other symptoms linked with COVID-19. These other symptoms may have another cause and are not on their own a reason to have a COVID-19 test. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms you should seek medical advice.

If a person has received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine and has symptoms of COVID-19 or has received a positive test result, they should still follow the government self-isolation guidance. This is because it is still possible to get COVID-19 and spread it to others even if one is vaccinated.

Government guidance on self-isolation and how to reduce the spread of Covid-19 can be found here
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection?utm_source=28%20November%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#samehousehold

For medical advice in relation to Covid-19, please call 111 or visit www.nhs.uk .

If you have any questions in relation to the contents of this letter, please contact the school on 02072533741.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie Brownhill
Headteacher