

20 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 Updates

At the start of the Spring term, we updated our Outbreak Management Plan (OMP), which sets out how we will manage outbreaks of COVID-19 at the school or in the local community. We continue to closely monitor COVID-19 cases within our school community.

Yesterday, you will have seen or heard that the government's Plan B Covid-19 restrictions in England are planned to be phased out next week.

From today, the Government has shared that secondary school students and staff will no longer need to wear face coverings in classrooms. From Thursday 27th January 2022, face coverings will no longer be required in indoor communal areas in primaries and secondaries.

Due to the current transmission rates in school, I would like us to keep our measures as they are, to keep all in our community safe. We will retain all our hygiene measures and:

- **Face coverings in classrooms in secondary phase**
- **Face coverings in indoor communal areas across the academy**

We will review this next week and update you accordingly.

This decision is due to the numbers of Covid-19 positive cases which are around 4% (1 in 25) in school. We think that while we are seeing positive cases at this rate, it would be prudent to keep our measures in place, to prevent any increase. I am confident positive cases will start to fall and we will be able to ease some of the measures we have in place but would ask your patience in adhering to our current guidance for the next week or so.

I am sure this news will cause some worry and concern, but please be reassured that we are reviewing and reinforcing testing, hygiene, and ventilation measures already in place. We will do everything we can to keep staff and students safe.

COVID-19 testing

Testing remains essential in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within our school communities.

We have reminded our staff of the importance of testing using rapid lateral flow devices every 3-4 days.

Hygiene

Maintaining good hygiene is a key measure to reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Please remind your child to:

- wash their hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash their hands as soon as they get home
- cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash their hands afterwards

We will continue to ensure students have regular handwashing opportunities: before and after eating, after breaks, changing rooms etc. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the school, and we will make sure that children wash their hands often.

The school will continue with enhanced cleaning arrangements, paying particular attention to surfaces that are regularly touched. We will also keep spaces well ventilated and will not allow anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to enter the site.

Reminders:

- Face covering must be worn at all times by secondary students
- Please do not send your child into school if they have tested positive with an LFD test
- Please report all LFD results to NHS and school
- Please do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms of Covid 19 and test them with an LFD if possible
- Do not send your child into school if they have been asked to self-isolate until the agreed return date
- If your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid -19 please ensure they take an LFD test before they come to school each day for 7 days
- If you need to visit school for a pre-arranged meeting, then please take an LFD test and bring proof of the negative result on the day of your meeting and wear a face covering at all times when on school premises

These measures will help to keep as many students in schools receiving face-to-face education as possible. We will continue to maintain rigorous cleaning and hygiene levels at school and do everything we can to keep everyone safe.

If staffing levels mean we are unable to safely accommodate all students in school, we will move to remote learning for identified students. This will be a last resort but will ensure continuity of teaching and learning, when staffing levels are low.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Ela McSorley
Principal All-Through
Enc Covid-19 Reminders