



Headteacher: Mr E. Wong
10/01/2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Updated Government Guidance for Schools - COVID 19

The government has recently issued updated [guidance for schools on COVID-19](#). Some additional measures have been introduced for schools as a continued precaution to slow down the spread of the Omicron variant while the government and scientists gather more information about the variant. As a result, the following measures will apply in all schools from the start of this Spring Term.

Face coverings

Students in all year groups ***should now wear protective face masks in all lessons, when moving around the premises and in all indoor communal areas.*** This is a temporary measure due to be reviewed later this term. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. Students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.

Where we have received notification from parents some students may be exempt from wearing a protective face mask. No student will be denied education on the grounds that they are not wearing a face covering. We ask that parents support the school by ensuring that their child sets off for school each day with a protective face mask.

Asymptomatic Testing

All students were offered testing (Lateral Flow Tests) on the school site before returning to normal lessons. Twice weekly lateral flow device testing should continue at home for all students - the school has provided home test kits for all students who attended their pre-school test and will issue the remaining packs to those who were unable to attend over the course of this week. All results from Lateral Flow testing – positive, negative and void – should be reported via the [school COVID-19 reporting portal](#). The government has also relaxed the guidance around taking lateral flow tests within 90 days of a positive case – people can now test within this timeframe if they choose as it is needed to determine if isolation can be ended early.

Contact Tracing and Isolation

The current guidance on NHS contact tracing remains in place. The self-isolation advice for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, provided that your child tests negative on two consecutive Lateral Flow Tests taken 24 hours apart, no earlier than the 6th and 7th day after they first have exhibited symptoms or tested positive (whichever is earlier). These LFD test results must be reported via the [school COVID-19 reporting portal](#). They can also return after the 10th day, provided they do not have a persistent high temperature.

Where your child tests positive using a Lateral Flow Test, and is not displaying symptoms, then there is no longer a need to get a PCR test. If your child is displaying symptoms, then you should get a PCR test. If you have difficulty obtaining a PCR slot or a PCR home test, please contact the operations team at the school.

The latest government guidance on isolation is rapidly changing so please use the [following link](#) and follow the latest guidance on self-isolation times and processes. In the event of your child being a close contact of a positive case, you will be contacted directly by Track & Trace. In these cases, your child should undertake daily lateral flow testing for seven days, unless they become symptomatic.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

The NHS vaccination team are re-visiting the school on the 26th and 27th January to provide second vaccinations for most students and first vaccinations for eligible (now turned 12) Year 7 students as well as any other students who may want a first dose.

Consent forms will be issued by the end of this week and must be returned by Wednesday 19th January so that we can confirm the number of vaccinations required to the School Immunisation Team. Consent forms must be completed even if you have previously provided consent for the first dose due to a change in the NHS processes surrounding this.

Travel and Return to School

All children and staff to England after holidays must adhere to government travel advice in travel to England from another country during coronavirus (COVID-19). Parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine or isolate upon return. For latest government travel and COVID 19 testing guidance please use the [following link](#).

Planned International Educational Visits

For this temporary period the school will not be organising any new international trips recognising the risk of disruption to education resulting from the need to isolate and test on arrival back into the UK. We will continue with plans for International trips already organised by the school, but will of course, keep parents updated, should any further changes take place.

Extracurricular clubs and academic Intervention and support activities

The school will continue to run extracurricular activities and academic intervention activities for students, following guidance set out in the school's risk main COVID 19 assessment. This may of course alter should we see rising numbers of positive cases reported.

We will continue to keep parents notified of any further government changes or advice provided by the London Coronavirus Response Cell (LCRC). The government are scheduled to review these measures on 26th January 2022.

In advance, we would like to thank both students and parents for your continued support and co-operation with our COVID 19 measures.

Yours faithfully,

David White
Deputy Headteacher