



8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent & Carers

## **Covid-19 Update**

I write to update you with regard to cases of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus) within the school community. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child(ren). With some students about to return following self-isolation, some in the early stages of self-isolation and some awaiting the results of PCR tests we find ourselves with an excess of thirty positive cases. Five staff are also off work having returned a positive PCR test. We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with UKHSA and local public health as advised.

At the time of writing, based on the information received, we have not had a case of the Omicron variant within the school community. Should we be informed of such a case we shall have to identify close contacts who will then need to self-isolate for 10 days. This isolation period is only for close contacts of the Omicron variant.

If your family member tests positive for the Alpha or Delta variants and you are fully vaccinated or aged 18 or under you do not need to self-isolate unless you have symptoms or have tested positive on a lateral flow test when you should seek a PCR test. However, any student or member of staff who has a household member test positive or are identified as a close contact of a positive case should be advised to perform an LFD test for 7 days.

The School remains open as normal and parents of children who have not received individual contact from us should continue to send their child(ren) to school. Please also reinforce the importance of wearing a face-covering in communal areas, when transitioning between lessons together with school and public transport.

## **Lateral Flow Device**

May we also remind you that all students should be testing twice a week on a Monday morning and a Thursday morning either via LFT devices. It is very important that we pick up positive cases as soon as we possibly can to prevent or reduce any community transmission. The Omicron variant may well be much more transmissible and possibly with milder initial symptoms than the prevalent Delta variant so this regular self-testing is incredibly important.

## **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive on a LFD test**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive on a LFD test, they should be tested and remain off school until results are known. This can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. If a sibling of a Covid positive child has not tested positive on a lateral flow test or PCR test, the sibling does not need to self isolate unless required to do so by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of an Omicron case.

However, before sending siblings of Covid positive children to school each day, we would ask you to consider that they undertake a daily lateral flow test. Thank you.

You can order lateral flow tests for home use here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## **Symptoms**

Parents should not send their child(ren) to school if they are showing the following symptoms and should book a PCR test.

- The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:
- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. If your child is struggling to breathe, call 999.

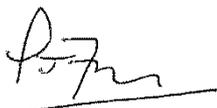
## **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19 when at school:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wear a face covering on school and public transport, in communal areas, when transitioning between lessons
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Yours sincerely



Peter Fry, Head