



KHD/jm

15th October 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Covid-19 Update

We are aware that several members of our school community have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) over the last week.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with our local Public Health team. This letter is to inform you of the current situation, and to provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. If any students or staff have been identified as contacts of the confirmed case(s), they will be contacted by NHS Test & Trace and will be advised to take a PCR test. Schools are no longer required to do this under the new guidance from the DfE.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well. All parents/guardians are advised to continue with the routine of twice-weekly, Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test, which provide asymptomatic testing of those aged 11 years and above, in the household. The school will also continue to implement all of the practices and procedures it has had in place to try to reduce the spread of this virus. However, we are recommending that staff and students may wish to go back to wearing face masks/shields around the school. This would also help reduce the possibility of catching the heavy cold and sickness bug that is also passing through the school.

Please can I remind you that, if you would like your child to have the COVID-19 vaccination if they are 12-15 years of age, the consent forms **must** be returned to school on **Monday 18th October 2021**.

Below is information from the NHS and Public Health England, which we thought you may find useful at this time.

Please also see the enclosed, updated, local Parent/Carer Flowchart for further information on:

- **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19**
- **Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who is symptomatic and is waiting for a PCR test result**
- **Information on self-isolation**

The [Department for Education Contingency Framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities and directors of public health can recommend measures described in the contingency framework for individual education and childcare settings, if the number of positive cases increases substantially. We are not currently in this situation. Should they be required at a later date, the advice is as follows:

- As part of the response to COVID-19 cases in education settings that have met a threshold for further action, the local Public Health team have advised that, where possible, any child who lives with a sibling who has tested positive in the last 10 days **should not go in to their education setting**, and should take a PCR test **3 to 5 days after the onset of symptoms, or the first positive test in the household (whichever was soonest)**. They should then stay away from their education setting until a negative test result is received. If the test result is positive, they must isolate for 10 days from the positive test result.
- Your child will be expected to participate in remote learning, and you will not be penalised for their absence from school in following this advice.
- If the PCR test is negative and your child is not displaying any symptoms, then they **must** return to their education setting.
- Transmission between household members is very common and we are taking this additional measure to prevent further disruption in the setting from COVID-19.
- **Exceptions:** Please note that this advice does not apply to children who have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days, nor those who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine more than 14 days ago. They should then only stay at home and get a test if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- This advice will be reviewed after 14 days, along with the other additional measures that the setting has put in place.

Instructions for other people who live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who is symptomatic and is awaiting a test result:

As of 16th August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](#) and any of the following apply:

- you are **fully vaccinated**
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and **at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended dose of that vaccine.**

The following measures will also help to reduce the risk of you, and anyone you live with becoming ill with COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now. Those who are 16 or 17 years old can get vaccinated at a drop-in site. Please see <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/drop-in> for clinic locations and times. **The vaccination programme for 12-15-year-olds is now being rolled out through the School Age Immunisations Service (SAIS).**
- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser, regularly throughout the day.
- 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.
- Meet people outside and avoid crowded areas.
- Open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside.
- Wear a face covering when it is hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places.
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for children aged 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further information is available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours faithfully



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