

Date: 6/12/2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

We have been made aware that there are currently 12 members of our Yr7 student community who are isolating having tested positive for COVID 19. Whilst there have been small numbers of cases in all year groups since the start of the new school year, having 12 cases at the same time in any year group has required us to put in additional preventative measures.

Having consulted with the Liverpool Health & Safety unit **we are now asking all Year 7 students to carry out daily testing using the Lateral Flow Tests.** The purpose of this is to identify any asymptomatic cases in school who can then isolate and stop the spread of COVID-19 to other students.

We are introducing additional measures so that we can reduce cases now, rather than have individuals needing to isolate over Christmas. The more we do now, the more likely we can have a COVID-free Christmas break.

NHS Test and Trace will work with positive cases and/or their parents to identify close contacts. Contacts will be informed by NHS test and trace, not by school as was previously happening.

In order to keep our school community safe and our children in school there are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

All secondary students should have received home test kits from school. Regular asymptomatic testing will help to reduce the chance of the virus spreading. We are taking this opportunity to remind all students to do a Lateral Flow Test twice a week (every 3 to 4 days) to check if they have the virus. If students test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading. However, as stated, we are asking that **all Yr7 students to test daily between now and Christmas.** We will provide pupils with additional test kits to facilitate with this.

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

- 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
- 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
- wear a face mask as often as possible
- all students should wear a face mask in corridors

## Further Information

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

## Symptoms of COVID 19

If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms they should book a PCR test and isolate. COVID-19 symptoms are:

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

Please remember that students should continue to attend school – even if a friend or member of their family or household has tested positive – unless they themselves become symptomatic, in which case they should follow the steps outlined above. ‘Close contacts’ no longer need to self-isolate unless specifically directed to do so by NHS England

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. You can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 119.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

## Current measures in place

- Designated year group assembly points in the morning
- Auto-dispense hand sanitiser on all corridors and outside toilets
- Continued use of 2 metre safe zones / teacher zones in classrooms
- Enhanced ventilation within classrooms and corridors
- Face Coverings to be worn in corridors
- Further enhanced cleaning; focus on touch points
- Staggered breaks for all year groups, in separate areas
- Staggered and separate lunches
- Staggered end of day from separate year group zones
- Limited trips and visits / visitors to school
- Enhanced testing for risk assessed cohort of children/adults eg. year group