

29/11/21

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families

As you may know, the government has introduced new restrictions in schools because of concerns about new variants of the coronavirus. All positive contacts with a case of the new Omicron coronavirus will have to isolate even if they have been vaccinated, so we all have to do what we can to make sure that the school is kept fully open and as safe as possible at the same time.

Most positive results at the moment will not be the new Omicron variant and so vaccinated adults and school children will not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a positive case. This means that they can come to school as usual even if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

Most positive results at the moment will not be the new Omicron variant and so vaccinated adults and school children will not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a positive case. This means that they can come to school as usual even if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive with someone who tests positive for Covid-19.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home to avoid spread of other bugs and viruses.

Advice from the Government and local Public Health England teams is likely to be updated on a regular basis. This is the current position: -

### **Symptoms of Covid-19 and self-isolation**

Anyone displaying the three Covid-19 symptoms, even if mild, should self-isolate and book a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test as soon as possible:

- a new continuous cough
- a fever or high temperature
- or a change or loss of sense of taste or smell

### **New, persistent, or unusual symptoms**

If your child is too unwell to be at school and has any wider symptoms which are ***new, persistent, or unusual*** they should stay at home and take a PCR test to rule out Covid-19. These symptoms include:

- shortness of breath or wheezing
- fatigue
- loss of appetite
- muscle ache or pain
- sore throat and/or hoarseness
- persistent headache

- runny or blocked nose
- nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea

They should also book a PCR test if they've been in contact with someone who has tested positive, though can attend school while waiting for the result unless they are unwell.

### **Face Coverings in communal areas**

All students and staff should put on a face covering on arrival and wear them in communal or circulation areas unless this is not practicable (e.g., whilst eating or when necessary, for communication). Please send your child in with a reusable face covering where possible to reduce waste. Students should also wear face coverings on public transport and dedicate school transport, unless exempt.

### **Assemblies**

School assemblies will be limited to half the school rather than to whole-school ones.

### **Ventilation**

Classes will continue to be ventilated at break and lunch, or if the carbon monoxide meter in each room shows ventilation is needed.

### **Regular hand cleansing**

Hand cleansing using sanitiser will continue before lessons and eating as well as after breaks. There are automatic dispensers throughout the school and bottles in each room.

### **Lateral Flow Testing twice per week will continue**

All students and staff should continue to use lateral flow tests twice per week. Students can either self-test or be assisted by parents/carers. If a test is positive, the student must isolate and you should order a PCR test to confirm. You are allowed to take them to a test centre even if isolating if this can be done safely.

### **Contact tracing and isolation**

The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

### **Vaccination**

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are being encouraged by Public Health to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

To book a vaccination, please visit: Book or manage a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination – NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)).

## Wintry weather

If any students are more likely to feel the cold even when indoors, we suggest a vest or plain white t-shirt under their regular shirt. This will also help them keep warm when outside at playtime. Given the cold weather, a warm coat is also needed, with hat and gloves as needed.

As a parent myself, I know it is inconvenient to have to book PCR tests for your children, with all the extra running around that it causes. At least there are now more local options about where you can book and get a PCR test without delay. PCR tests can be booked online [here](#) or by calling 119. See [Hackney's website](#) for more information.

I appreciate your help and support in keeping each member of the school community as safe as possible under the current circumstances.

Kind regards,



Mr Kevin McDonnell  
Headteacher