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Wednesday 5th January 2022

Covid Update January 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all back to hopefully a 'calmer' term. I hope you all had some rest over the holidays and have had the opportunity to spend some time with family and friends. As I am sure you all be aware, there has been some covid changes over the holiday period, so I thought I would update you about how it impacts schools.

Isolation changes for Positive Covid results

From **Wednesday 22nd December** all isolation periods for positive cases, **in England**, can leave self-isolation if they:

- Take two LFD tests on subsequent days, at least a full 24 hours apart, with the first test on at least the sixth full day of their self-isolation (not counting the 'onset day').
- Obtain negative results on both these days and do not have a high temperature

If both LFD test results are negative, it is likely that the case were not infectious at the time the tests were taken and they can end their isolation. To further reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others, they are strongly advised to:

- limit close contact with other people outside their household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces
- work from home if possible
- wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and where they are in close contact with other people
- limit contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19
- follow the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#)

If self-isolation ends following 2 negative LFD test results, 24 hours apart, from Day 6 they should follow this advice until 10 full days from when their self-isolation period started

Pupils:

The Local Authority state that pupils are unlikely to be able to follow the advice in the national guidance which states that they should "limit close contact with other people outside your household, especially in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces". Therefore, advice from Cheshire East Public Health is that they should not come into school and should follow the stay at home guidance for the full 10-day period.

Isolation rules for a Positive Case in the household or Close Contact

From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts

If your child has any symptoms, they MUST NOT come into school and take a PCR test. Please can I ask that due to them being symptomatic, they stay at home until the results have come through.

Children with a household contact:

From October 2021 Cheshire East Public Health Directors provided the following advice to schools and settings as a result of the high number of cases in the 0-19 year olds.

Children who are household contacts of positive cases are advised not to attend the setting for 5 days from the first symptom or positive case. During this time they should have a PCR test. If this is negative they can return after 5 days. This will be reviewed over the next half term, but will remain in place until I hear any updates from Cheshire East.

Advice for those (pupil/staff) who tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days

If someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, and if they are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and are exempt from isolation, they are strongly advised to take part in daily testing. If the LFD test is positive, they should also take a confirmatory PCR even if it is within the 90 day period.

Face Coverings

Children over the age of 11 and adults must wear masks in all communal areas in and around school. We would also ask that all adults wear a mask when entering the school grounds.

Outbreak Plan

Sadly, we have already had to use our outbreak plan last term to try and reduce the spread of covid in the school following an outbreak. We follow the DFE thresholds of when to use our outbreak plan which are:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

If we hit any of these thresholds, we will use our school outbreak plan (this can be found on our website under the covid tab) to plan our next steps. All planning takes place with the Cheshire East Covid Response team and Public Health.

If your child's year group is affected, you will receive communication via text and email on what we need to do. This may be asking for the whole class, school staff and siblings to take a PCR test. Each case will be different and we will always act on the Local Authority and Public Health advice.

Remote Learning and consent

As a school we are all hoping that we will not be entering into another lockdown. In the event that this is the case, the school will switch to our school Google classrooms. Each class teacher will send a remote timetable for each class via email and this will be added to the classroom. There will be daily live lessons and a well-rounded curriculum, which all subjects will be on offer. The remote learning contingency plan is on the school website.

In the event that your child has to isolate due to testing positive for covid, as long as your child is well enough, we will switch their learning to Google Classroom. They will be provided with daily work, that reflects the work that is taking place in class. Daily live lessons and live collective worship will be provided for them.

Each child has been given a unique login for their classroom. If you have not already signed a remote consent form, please complete the attached form ASAP. If we do not have your consent, the children will not be able to use the Google classroom without your permission.

We are fully aware that access to online learning can be difficult if you do not have enough electronic devices or access to wifi. If you have any issues with accessing the Google classroom, please let us know and we can support you with chrome books and dongles. If you prefer paper copies of the work, we are more than happy to accommodate this option. If you need any stationary or further equipment to help with working from home, please do let us know and we can provide you with what you need.

Wellbeing calls for all children remote learning will take place weekly, but please do get in contact with us if you have any worries or concerns.

Key workers

In the event that we are in a national lockdown, we want to be able to offer key worker places ASAP. If you feel you may be in the key worker category, please do let us know ASAP, so we can contact you straight away if we need to offer a place for your child/ren.

Vaccinations

The JCVI has issued new guidance which expands the number of children and young people for whom vaccination is advised. [jcvl update on covid-19vaccination of children and young people](#)

- Children aged 5 to 11 years in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed should be offered two doses.
- Boosters are recommended for those age 16-17 years old and those age 12-15 years old who are in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed
- Additional boosters are also recommended for children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are severely immunosuppressed and who have had a third primary dose

The conditions which constitute a clinical risk or immunosuppression are defined in [The Greenbook, chapter14a 24 Dec 21](#)

The CCG has advised that it will be working with GP surgeries to identify and arrange vaccinations for vulnerable children. Further details will be provided when confirmed.

I have everything crossed that we will have a smooth-running term. Please do get in contact if you have any questions or concerns. My aim is to ensure that whatever is the pipeline from the Government, that Acton is are ready and prepared as it can be. As a school we are doing everything we can to follow the constant updated guidance and keep everyone safe. Please continue to support us through this very difficult time.

Take care and stay safe

Kind regards,

Rachael McKinlay

Name of Child _____

I do give permission for my child to attend the massed rehearsal for Singfest at Malbank high school on 27th January at 9.30am-11.30am and will drop my child off at the school.

I do not give permission for my child to attend the massed rehearsal for Singfest at Malbank high school on 27th January at 9.30am-11.30am

I am able to collect my child from Malbank high school at return to school at 11.30am

I am unable to collect my child from Malbank high school at return to school at 11.30am

Please tick one of the following:

I give permission for my child to have their photograph taken and be used by Singfest and school for the public interest including social media and local newspapers.

I do not give permission for my child to have their photograph taken and be used by Singfest and school for the public interest including social media and local newspapers.

I give permission for my child to have their photograph taken, but only to be used in the school community and not social media or newspaper reports.

Name of contact: _____

Phone number of contact: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____ -