

13th May 2021
14:30

Dear Families,

Re: Face mask requirement to continue from the 17th May 2021 after discussion with the Health Protection Hub and further reiteration of isolation rules

As you will be undoubtedly aware, it was announced by the Prime Minister on Monday during the Downing Street press briefing that students and staff are no longer required to wear a face mask/covering in any area of the school, except for staff in places where social distancing may not be possible.

Upon further reading of the guidance released on the 10th May 2021, **face coverings/masks will still need to be worn when students are travelling on public transport or school buses from the 17th May 2021.**

In addition to the above, the guidance also states that "the reintroduction of face coverings for pupil, students or staff may be advised for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern..."

The full guidance for schools can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/985138/10_May_Schools_Guidance.pdf

Following discussions with the Health Protection Hub, their recommendation, which we are in agreement with as a school, is that **students and staff at Burton Borough School continue to wear face masks in all indoor areas.** This is due to the recent outbreak we had in school, with us still being in the incubation period from the outbreak, and the local situation that you may have seen in local and national media about a mutation of the UK Covid-19 variant in Telford and Wrekin. **There is therefore no change to our current procedures from next week until further notice.** Any students who are exempt will not be required to wear a face mask as usual.

The decision on face masks will be reviewed weekly by the Health Protection Hub and I will update you with any changes.

Further reiteration of isolation rules

We are still sending students home in the morning who have household members who have Covid-symptoms or where the students have symptoms themselves. **We would like to reiterate once again – please do not send your children into school if anyone in your household has Covid-19 symptoms or if your child has Covid-19 symptoms themselves.** We cannot stress the importance of this enough and families not following the rules are putting everyone in our community at risk as well as slowing down the process of everything returning to 'normal'.

If anyone in your household has Covid-19 symptoms, your whole household must isolate and a PCR (lab) test, (NOT a 30 minute rapid lateral flow test), must be booked for the person with symptoms at a testing centre. If the results are positive, please continue to isolate – this includes all members of your household.

Government guidance on isolation can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>



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The main symptoms of Covid-19 are as follows and a PCR test must be taken:

- **A high temperature**
- **A continuous cough**
- **A loss of sense of taste or smell**

Other possible symptoms of Covid-19 which you can also arrange your child to have a PCR test for if they are displaying symptoms are:

- **Shortness of breath**
- **Loss of appetite**
- **Sore throat**
- **Runny nose**
- **Sneezing**
- **Headache**
- **Aches and Pains**
- **Fatigue or feeling tired for no good reason**
- **Diarrhoea**
- **Nausea**
- **Vomiting**
- **Tummy Ache (especially in children)**

We would be grateful if this message could be spread by word of mouth in addition to the emails we send, posts we put on social media and through our websites as it is evident that some families are not getting this communication. We need to all work together to protect our community and to prevent prolonging the need for additional measures.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19, please send us the notification through our dedicated Covid-19 email:

covid.bbs@taw.org.uk

I know that there are families who do not believe that Covid-19 exists, do not condone the wearing of face coverings/masks and are anti-vaccination. As ever, thank you for your support with the school's stance on the measures we have, even though they conflict with your own beliefs.

Best wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter
Principal



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