

21st January 2022

Dear families,

Re: Local response to Government changes to COVID -19 protocol

On Wednesday 19th January the Government outlined new protection measures which came into force nationally from Thursday 20th January. Whilst these are nationwide changes, there is still an expectancy that; where necessary, local areas will implement 'Stepped-up' measures where there is a spike in infection rates.

Telford and Wrekin continue to have the highest level of infection rates across the West Midlands, and some of the highest rates nationally. As a result, we will as usual be guided by the advice we receive from the local Health Protection Hub, alongside the guidance from Public Health England.

The information below covers what our protocol will be from Monday 24th January and beyond, including what possible 'Stepped-up' measures will look like.

Does my child have to wear a face covering?

From Monday face coverings will no longer be required within lessons. If students and staff want to continue wearing them; then this will be their choice.

It is recommended but not compulsory that staff and students continue to wear face coverings in communal areas. Again, this will be down to personal choice.

When could face coverings be re-introduced?

The guidance from the Health Protection Hub is that for years 7-9 where 10% of a class has tested positive over the past 10 days, and the threshold has been met from the Contingency Framework for Stepped-up measures. In this case we would re-introduce the protocol that students wear face coverings for a 14 day period on school transport and in communal areas.

For Years 10 upwards, reflecting the difficulty in tracking case rates in groups with high degrees of mixing, where 10% of a year has tested positive over the past 10 days and the threshold has been met from the Contingency Framework for Stepped-up measures. In this case we would re-introduce the protocol that students wear face coverings for a 14 day period on school transport and in communal areas.

My child has tested positive for COVID-19 – how long do they have to stay away from school/college?

All people – including pupil's parents and teachers – have to isolate for a minimum of five full days after the day of a positive test before going back to school; only if they have tested negative twice.

The first full day of isolation is considered to be the day following the positive test. Following the fifth full day of isolation – on the sixth day – it will be possible for people who have received two negative LFD tests on consecutive days to go back to school.

People who have tested positive can now take two LFD tests on day 5 and day 6, and if both are negative and they do not have a temperature, they can end their self-isolation on day 6 and return to their education setting immediately.

If either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

In practice it means that if a child or teacher tests positive on a Saturday that would be considered day 0. They could then take tests on the morning of Thursday (day 5) and Friday (day 6). If they tested negative on both days and did not have a temperature, they would be then able to return to school on the Friday.

What about if someone else in the house has tested positive? Can my child go to school/college?

Yes. They should continue going to school but test daily. If they test positive, they should isolate.

Will the school day timings still remain the same?

For the time being yes, we will be retaining our shorter lunchtime and staggered end to the day as follows.

Year 7: 3.05pm

Year 8: 3.07pm

Year 9: 3.09pm

Year 10: 3.11pm

Year 11: 3.13pm

Year group bubbles and clubs

We will be retaining the year group bubbles during social times. There will no longer be a need for clubs and the canteen to have any additional COVID -19 measures in place.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Morgan
Acting Principal



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