

29th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to update you on the situation regarding Covid-19 in our schools, in light of the new variant.

Most of the guidance hasn't changed and the new measures that are being introduced are temporary and precautionary and will be reviewed in three weeks. This will be kept under review as the situation develops.

The information below sets out the new guidance and how it will be implemented in our schools.

Face coverings

From today (Monday 29 November), face coverings must be worn in communal areas in all schools by staff and visitors, unless exempt. Students in year 7 and above must also wear a face covering in communal areas and whilst moving around the school between lessons, unless they are exempt.

Students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

Testing

All staff and all pupils are encouraged to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. Please continue to report all positive cases to your child's school using the online form on the school's website.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place - which means that close contacts should take PCR tests but do not need to isolate unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. The exception is for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases, who will be asked to isolate for 10 days.

Vaccination

The Department of Education is encouraging all eligible staff and students aged 12 and over to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. You can book a vaccine by visiting: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

Christmas Events

Guidance from the Department for Education regarding visitors on school sites has not changed and continues to say schools, nurseries and other settings can continue to hold events where visitors such as parents are on-site. This means that nativities, plays, concerts and other festive events can go ahead.

If you are attending an event at your child's school you should take a rapid lateral flow test before the event and only attend if you get a negative result. You can order LFD tests online or visit a pharmacy. If your test is positive you should isolate immediately and get a PCR test. We are also requesting that you wear a face covering throughout the event, in line with updated national guidance.

If a school has particularly high levels of COVID-19, we will liaise with Public Health who may suggest that the event should be cancelled, to reduce transmission. If this happens in a Futura School the event will be recorded for parents to view on-line.

We hope this clarifies the position but do not hesitate to email us if you have any questions. You can do so by emailing enquiries@futuralearning.co.uk.

Thank you for your support for the measures being taken to keep our schools open and our staff and pupils safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Arlidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive