

22 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you aware from my previous letter this week, we have rising numbers of cases of Covid in Year 9 and are working with Public Health Wiltshire to assess the actions we can take to minimise further cases.

In liaison with Public Health, we have therefore decided to adopt the following measures in school from Thursday 23 September 2021:

- **Enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces**
- **Use of face coverings in lessons and indoor communal areas for Year 9 students**
- **Increase the lateral flow test programme for Year 9 students so that they test three times a week**
- **Remind students about the importance of frequently washing their hands**

We also highly recommend that all members of the school community wear face coverings in indoor communal areas.

These actions will be reviewed at the end of the next week and are hopefully a short-term solution to a localised outbreak in Year 9. Whilst I know that some students will find a return to face masks in the classroom difficult, we would value support with this measure please.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should organise for your child to be tested via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. They should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

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How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

We are keen to ensure education can continue; and we wish to advocate the following things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- **get vaccinated** – everyone aged 16 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now
- **if you are symptomatic** – isolate and get PCR test
- **if you think you are a close contact** – get a PCR test
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- **consider your social contacts** – every contact carries a COVID risk, even with vaccinated people so:
 - consider whether to meet up at all
 - meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
 - open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
 - wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it is hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
 - participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

Yours sincerely



Sarah Haines
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