



THE KING'S SCHOOL

3 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: COVID-19 Update for Students in Secondary Schools in January 2022

Firstly, may I wish you a Happy New Year and I hope you have had a lovely Christmas. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school tomorrow, **Tuesday, 4 January 2022**.

Before our return, I wanted to share some updates from the Department for Education (DfE). The complete guidance can be found at the following link:

Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings

We have adhered to the advice from the Department for Education (DfE) that recommends face coverings should be worn by students, staff, and adult visitors (unless exempt) when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas.

In addition to this, from 4, January 2022, the Department for Education recommends that students in Secondary Schools wear a face-covering in classrooms whilst the government's 'Plan B' is active. The King's School, and all schools within Pontefract Academies Trust will be adhering to this advice. Therefore, from 4, January 2022, students should wear a face covering (unless exempt) in classrooms and corridors and communal areas.

This is a temporary measure and the advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday, January 26th, when Plan B regulations are scheduled to expire. At that point, it will be reviewed.

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday, 22 December, the ten-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Students may now take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Students who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete the full ten days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period, and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and your child does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

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Anyone unable to take the LFD test will need to complete the whole ten-day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

Students who are identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 should now take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

LFD Testing

The government advice remains that students and school staff should continue to conduct LFD tests at home twice weekly and report test results via the government's test and trace service. As a school, we continue to request that students perform the tests on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and in the event of a positive test, please also inform the school. You must then book a PCR test as soon as possible and contact the school with the result.

January Testing

As previously communicated, we recommend that staff and students conduct an LFD test today, Monday 3 January, before the new term.

In addition to this, we will run an Assisted Testing Site from 08.00am on Tuesday, 4 January to carry out additional LFD tests for Covid-19. Students for whom we have had new consent upon arrival at school should go to the Main Hall for the LFD test. Students for whom we have not had new consent and who will not take part in the testing should arrive at school from 8.35am as normal.

We greatly appreciate your continued support. As always, should you have any queries, do not hesitate to get in touch with the school via the usual channels.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school to start the new term on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Pinto
Headteacher