



29th November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Following the Prime Minister's announcements over the weekend and updated Department of Education (DfE) guidance, I am writing to update you on our risk assessment and the measures we have in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in the school community.

LFT one off testing on site

You will be aware from my update at the end of last week that the Worcester Public Health team is embarking on a programme of community testing. The cases in the Academy and community remain consistent but as a collective we need to bring these down. The local outreach team has tested some schools and colleges last week and **from tomorrow will be testing here between Tuesday, 30th November and Thursday, 2nd December.**

This will help us to identify any asymptomatic cases and reduce transmission within our community with minimal disruption to learning.

The process on the day will be quick and easy. The LFT will be supervised by trained and experienced staff but administered by your child themselves. The team will do their best to support your child and make them feel comfortable during their LFT test.

The school remains open and, providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend the setting as normal.

Following this "one off" testing in school it is important that your child continues to carry out **home testing every day for seven days** (we will provide the packs) and thereafter twice weekly as previously directed on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Consent for LFT testing

Consent is required in order for your child to have an LFT on the school premises. Please follow the link below.

[Online Consent Form](#)

What if my child tests positive at school?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device in school, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a confirmatory PCR test should be taken. If your child tests positive you will be contacted by the school and asked to collect your child as soon as possible. The PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK](#)

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the pupil can stop self-isolating and return to school.





Latest guidance

The latest guidance from the DfE, communicated in an email sent to schools today is detailed below.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings for staff, visitors and pupils in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils should continue to wear face coverings on public transport.

As a result, we are asking all students and staff to wear face coverings in all communal areas from today. This includes corridors and eating areas (unless seated to eat). Students may continue to wear their face coverings in classrooms and outside areas if they feel more comfortable doing so, although this will not be mandatory.

I would be grateful if you can support this by ensuring that your child has a supply of clean, plain face coverings. Parents should also ensure that students know how to wear them and keep them clean.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. Any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days.

We have not had any confirmed or suspected cases of the new Omicron variant at school. If we are informed of any confirmed cases then we will be required to identify any close contacts and these students / staff would be required to isolate for a ten-day period.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

You can book a vaccine on the NHS website, [here](#). Our vaccination day in school is Friday 3rd December.

A Final Reminder

There are still simple things we can all continue do to reduce the risk of spreading the virus:

- wash your hands with soap and water – do this for at least 20 seconds and dry your hands thoroughly
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- 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

Thank you for your continued support and we will continue to keep you updated. If you have any queries, please email office@worcs.tgacademy.org.uk and we will do our best to answer any general questions that you may have as promptly as we can.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Butler
Principal

