

30 November 2021

Covid-19 enhanced measures update 30th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following my earlier communication, on Friday, that explained that we have had to put enhanced Covid-19 safety measures into place. Following the long weekend, we have seen a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases amongst some of the student body and staff. We remain in a precarious and fast changing position as positive cases are again beginning to rise towards the numbers we saw previously and added to this is the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday evening, and the beginning of a return to national restrictions.

Therefore, I thought I would take this opportunity to set out, again, the measures that we will keep until the end of this term. These measures remain critical in our attempt to minimise the spread of Covid-19, and we ask for your support in this matter, **particularly around providing a face covering for your child. We are unable to supply face coverings indefinitely and may charge you in the future.**

Mitigations will vary in BCP schools, however, please note our current measures in place will continue:

- Staggered parent/carer drop off/pick up
- Zones at break and lunch
- No face-to-face assemblies
- Increased cleaning rotas.

The following measures will now remain in place until Friday 17 December:

- Students and staff wear a face covering in communal areas including when collecting food from the Hub. If your child is medically exempt or unable to wear a face covering, please ensure they wear the lanyard previously issued to you
- Move to Online Parent Teacher Consultation evenings
- Some classes may be required to wear face coverings. During some in class activities, for example, when students are needing to move around and work in groups as they would during a science experiment, they may be asked to wear a mask during this activity.

Please note, in line with government recommendations we expect the wearing of face coverings in communal areas. Please respect that a decision to make the wearing of face coverings compulsory may be made at short notice.

We continue to monitor the number of positive cases of Coronavirus within our students and this week we have seen a rapid increase in **positive cases amongst Year 7 and Year 9 students.**

To help safeguard students and staff we are asking that testing frequency is increased within these year groups. If your child is in either of these years, please help them test daily up to and including Friday 10 December. Please do this each morning before school, allowing enough time for the test to complete and show the result before your child arrives at the Academy (we recommend the test is commenced no later than 7.45am). We will make more kits available for students to bring home.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS

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Close Contacts & Track and Trace

Close contact in schools are now identified by NHS Track and Trace and schools are no longer expected to undertake tracing. As with other settings who have positive cases, NHS Track and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contact tracing. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of close contact.

How can parents/carers help to support less infection in school?

- Encourage twice weekly LFT in your secondary age pupils or daily if in Year 7 and Year 9. This can make a huge difference and has in some cases identified 25-20 asymptomatic cases per school per week
- If a case arises in school and you are notified, parents can support safer return to school by using regular LFT on their asymptomatic children, which many have been doing/asking if they can do this; you can do this in primary and middle schools as well as secondary for this fortnight
- Support school by observing isolation and getting PCR tests when asked
- Adhering to new rules and encouraging eligible family members to get vaccinated/boosters
- Observe close contact advice and do not send children to schools with symptoms of the virus or if they are unwell in other ways. [Read further guidance for close contacts here](#)

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, please isolate and book a test, even if you have already taken a test. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or a cough that won't go away
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

Further guidance on COVID-19 and what you need to do can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Covid-19 Vaccination for 12-15 year olds.

If you chose not to vaccinate your child at a previous point, but would now like to vaccinate them, you can book Covid vaccination appointments for your child via the government website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-1st-or-2nd-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

On 15th November new guidance was published advising 16 and 17 year olds to get a second vaccine jab 12 weeks after their initial vaccination, this link can also be used to book a second vaccination for your child.

And finally, we have been told by the Department for Education that all students will need to LFD test onsite before a return to school in January. I will be in touch as soon as I have further information on how this will be run.

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We are trying to continue our programme of ACE activities. These will be kept under review and will continue as long as it is safe to do so.

We are determined to ensure students continue to learn in a safe environment. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely and, as always, take a measured approach in the best interests of our students and staff. As ever thank you for your continued support in helping to make our school as safe a place as possible.




Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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