

25 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all well. I would like to say how hugely impressed I have been with the all the students so far this term. They have followed the COVID measures maturely and without question.

With that in mind, I thought it would be useful to update you on the current amber status measures as we move towards the festive period. Since returning from half term the number of positive cases has reduced to a stable number. The Somerset County Council Public Health (SCCPH) team have reviewed all schools and will be keeping them all at amber status. In consultation with SCCPH we have decided that we can adjust some of the Covid-19 measures due to the reduction of positive cases in our school. The measures and number of cases are continually being reviewed and further measures would be introduced if cases increase.

Protective measures in place from Friday 26 November

- Students and staff to maintain a safe distance where possible
- Enhanced cleaning of touch points and shared resources
- Washing or sanitising hands between lessons, activities and within the dining halls
- Spaces are well ventilated
- Students and staff to continue to test using home lateral flow test kits twice weekly prior to coming into school, ideally on a Monday and Thursday. Further test kits can be obtained from your child's tutor. There is no requirement to complete the lateral flow tests for 90 days following a positive PCR result.
 - Reporting to NHS Test and Trace: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result
 - Reporting to the school: <https://forms.office.com/r/FscsJJRiB>
- Students and staff to wear face masks in communal areas. No requirement to wear a face mask within lessons, while seated within the dining halls or when outside.
- Assemblies will remain split by year group to reduce mixing. Whole school assemblies will be completed via MS Teams.
- Enrichment activities across year groups can recommence ensuring that the relevant Covid-19 measures are taken.

If your child is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, they must not attend school and you should request a PCR test. They may return to school if the PCR result is negative and they are well enough to be at school.

You can book a PCR test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or by calling 119.

If the PCR test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test).

Close contacts should request a PCR test and complete a daily lateral flow test until they receive the result of the PCR test. They do not need to isolate if they are fully vaccinated (at least 14 days earlier), are medically exempt from vaccination or under the age of 18 years 6 months.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as we move towards the end of term. We are committed to ensuring your child stays as safe as possible whilst maintaining the standards of education you expect from us.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

