

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Update letter for families – 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

As we expected, [further updates](#) have been announced today from the Department for Education. This letter provides an overview of those changes, along with some important reminders and actions for you to support your child's return to school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

#### **Remote Learning**

At this juncture, there are no plans for the implementation of home learning and our priority is to keep our school open so that children can continue with face-to-face education. However, as students return to school following the holiday period, coupled with the high rates of COVID-19, these may cause difficulties with the availability of staff during the next term.

Therefore, it would be sensible to be prepared for any eventuality, should the situation change and remote learning become necessary. Below are a series of ways that you can help your child prepare for any potential period of home learning.

- Please support us by checking with your child that they can access Microsoft Teams. Your child should be able to access each of their class Teams, as this is where homework is set, and lessons are placed for absent students.
- If your child can not access MS Teams, please request a password reset by emailing [help@cmat.support](mailto:help@cmat.support), stating your child's name, year group and that they are a student at Abbey College.

#### **LFD Testing Requirements**

- On the **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**, please ask your child to take a lateral flow test at home and to upload their results on to [TestRegister](#) and on to the [NHS results website](#).
- On the **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**, please ask your child to take a second test and once again upload their results on to [TestRegister](#) and on to the [NHS results website](#).
- If your child has recorded a positive result in the last 90 days, **they should now take a test** on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- If your child has tested positive for Covid19 in the last 10 days:
  - They may now take an LFD test on (and no earlier than) day 6 along with a second test on day 7 of their self-isolation period (each test must be 24 hrs apart);
  - Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation and can return to school on day 8 unless they are symptomatic;
  - Those unable to take an LFD test, should continue to self-isolate for 10 days.
- If your child **does not** test at home on the 4<sup>th</sup> January, please advise them that they will be invited via their Form Tutor for an LFD Test at our in-school Test Centre, on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Only students who will not be testing at home on the 4<sup>th</sup> January and who have consented using [this form](#), should attend the ATS Centre.



- We will not prevent any child returning to school because they choose not to take a Lateral Flow Test. However, we are asking for your support with testing at home, so that we can start the year off as safely as possible and to minimise the impact of students visiting the ATS on-site testing provision on learning time.

### **Additional LFD Tests**

Before the Christmas break, we sent home two boxes of tests with your child, to ensure that they had enough to see them through to the New Year. We know that there have been many areas where LFD tests have been in short supply, and that this may have influenced the number of tests your child has available for testing to return to school. As such, we will have a small quantity of tests available for your child on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, which can be collected from Reception.

Further supplies for other family members can be obtained from [pharmacies](#), community testing sites, through [gov.uk LFD reporting system](#) or by calling 119. **Please refrain from stockpiling tests, and only keep what you need for one round of seven-day testing, for each member of your household.**

### **Facemasks**

From Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022, all students (unless exempt) must continue to wear facemasks in communal areas and in classrooms. The wearing of facemasks in classrooms is a short-term measure and will be reviewed by the government on 26th January 2022.

We therefore, encourage all students and parents to ensure they have a suitable number of face masks ready for the resumption of school on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Ideally, face coverings should be stored in two labelled plastic bags (e.g. Sandwich zip bag), one for 'clean' and the other for 'used' masks.

Please note that the wearing of facemasks also applies to school transport. Wearing a face mask on public transport is a legal requirement.

### **A Reminder about Close Contacts**

On Tuesday 14 December the government amended the [legislation](#) relating to self-isolation for close contacts of a positive case for COVID19, regardless of the variant.

#### For those who are fully vaccinated or under 18 years of age

If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19, you are requested to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFD) for 7 consecutive days (or up until the end of the 10-day self-isolation period, if sooner). Close contacts, whether they test or not, should continue to follow national guidance and limit social contact where possible, especially around elderly and vulnerable people.

Should you or a member of your family record a positive LFD test **or** develop symptoms, you or they should self-isolate immediately and order a confirmatory PCR test. If you are participating in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19, you should continue to take an LFD test for 7 consecutive days (or until 10 days after exposure to the positive case, if sooner), **even if you have taken a PCR test and the result is negative.**



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If your PCR test is positive, you may be able to end your self-isolation period before the end of the usual 10 full days. You can take an LFD test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result. Further guidance on what is required in the event of a positive case can be found [here](#).

**For those who are NOT fully vaccinated**

There are no changes to the rules for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated or exempt. If this applies to you, you must self-isolate for 10 days from the contact with the positive case and take a PCR test, unless you are a part of an approved Workplace Daily Contact Testing Scheme.

Please visit [our website](#) for further information and support about remote learning as well as a set of frequently asked questions about daily testing for contacts.

Thank you once again for your support in keeping our community safe. I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Jane Warne  
Assistant Headteacher

