

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Advice from the Director of Public Health for Somerset

We have been advised by Public Health Somerset that there has been a notable rise in COVID-19 cases within **Year 7** specifically, and a smaller but still significant rise within **Year 8** and **Year 11**. We are therefore moving to the 'Amber' or 'Enhanced' Somerset Covid-19 management framework, meaning there is evidence of transmission within our setting. This letter is to inform you of the cases, our actions, and provide advice on how to support your child.

School actions

We are guided to implement some **specific additional measures** to help reduce the number of cases. These are as follows, for implementation until further notice:

- **Face coverings** should now be worn consistently when moving through our **corridors and communal areas** such as moving between lessons or queueing for food at break/lunch. Exempt pupils should wear a lanyard in these spaces. Teaching staff will ask students to put on face coverings before releasing them into corridors.
- **Face coverings** should be worn consistently on **schools' transport**. Members of SLT will ask students to put on face coverings before boarding.
- **Assemblies** will now be conducted remotely rather than in-person. External **PE fixtures** have been cancelled.
- **Parents evenings or similar** including Supporting Your Child Evening on Thursday 7th October 2021 will now be conducted remotely/virtually rather than in-person. All non-essential meetings will also be conducted virtually where possible.
- Parents/Carers of **students in tutor group 7Wr** are asked to [book a PCR test](#) for their child given the evidence of transmission within this tutor group, and notify the school by email to contact@kingsmead-school.com with the booking date and test result. Absence to attend a PCR test will be authorised. Students should continue to attend site both whilst they await their PCR test, and whilst they await their PCR result, unless symptomatic.
- **Lateral Flow Testing** should continue at home twice a week with the results recorded on the Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

CARE


ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

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These are in addition to the **existing measures** which are as follows:

- Provide outbreak information to everyone within the setting
- Improve ventilation indoors
- Enhanced cleaning, focusing on touch points and shared equipment
- Reinforcement of all hygiene measures
- Encourage vaccination uptake for eligible students and staff

Parental actions

Please reinforce the importance of each measure above with your child, along with the actions detailed in the paragraph '**How to stop COVID-19 spreading**' below. Please also provide your child with a face covering to bring to school.

Enhanced parental communication is vital as we monitor the implementation of the actions above. Parents must remember to notify the school by email to contact@kingsmead-school.com if their child has had a positive test, including the date of the positive Lateral Flow Test and/or date of PCR test (please give a separate date of each test) plus date of anticipated return to Kingsmead School. Please remember to inform the school even if the PCR result is negative.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

However mild the symptoms, please book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken an LFD test). 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.

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

If the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol). If the test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test). Members of your household who have been fully vaccinated (at least 14 days earlier) are medically exempt from vaccination or under the age of 18 years 6 months, instead of self-isolating, are now advised to take a free PCR test. They should continue to take precautions to protect others until the result is received. If the result is negative, they can resume normal activities. If the result is positive they must isolate for 10 days. This starts either from the test date, or onset of symptoms, whichever came first.

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.** Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not. Further information is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

- Do not attend school if you are unwell
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – for at least 20 seconds
- 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
- Bin used tissues immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Ventilate indoor spaces as well as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results
- For further information, please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Please do not contact the school asking for information on positive students, as we cannot provide confidential details to parents. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. We will continue to communicate with you on this matter as we implement actions to improve the safety of the school community.

Yours faithfully

Mark Williams

Mark Williams
Head Teacher