

15 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I email to share an important update received today from Public Health Somerset.

Testing at private lab suspended following NHS Test and Trace investigation:

Following recent concerns locally, of people receiving negative PCR test results after they have previously tested positive on a Lateral Flow Device, NHS Test and Trace has investigated and PCR test analysis has been suspended at a private laboratory - Immensa Health Clinic Ltd in Wolverhampton. While investigations are underway into the precise cause, NHS Test and Trace estimate that around 400,000 samples have been processed through the lab, the vast majority of which will have been negative results. An estimated 43,000 people may have been given incorrect negative PCR test results between 8th September and 12th October, mostly in the South West of England. This is an isolated incident attributed to one laboratory. All samples taken after 12th October are now being redirected to other laboratories. The number of tests carried out at the Immensa laboratory are small in the context of the wider network and testing availability is unaffected around the country. NHS Test and Trace is contacting the people that could still be infectious to advise them to take another test. Close contacts who are symptomatic will also be advised to take a PCR test in line with normal practice.

The following extract from the update is **relevant to all students and staff**:

Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms should book a PCR test. Those with a positive LFD test should get a follow up PCR test to confirm they have Covid-19. The advice, particularly for school or college aged children, their parents and those working in education is if you test positive on LFD and subsequently tested negative on PCR, prior to the 13th of October, we strongly recommend you isolate and get a further PCR test to ensure you have not got Covid-19.

Please consider this new guidance and follow its recommendations where relevant.

Cases rates at Kingsmead:

Whilst we cannot provide specific details on cases at Kingsmead, we can advise parents/carers of some statistics regarding Covid prevalence.

- 10.9% of students on roll are currently PCR positive
- The number of PCR positive cases in a year group varies between 18 and 26 students

We remain in the Amber Somerset Covid-19 management framework and will update you if this changes. Further to my earlier email, on **Monday 18 October 2021 Year 9 only** should undertake remote education from home.


CARE


ASPIRATION

RESPECT

DETERMINATION

Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2NE

 contact@kingsmead-school.com

 01984 623483

www.kingsmead-school.com

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.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with of 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

We share your frustrations about the continued interruptions to education caused by this virus, and your concern regarding the impact on the health of our students, staff, and their families. We are continuing with our in-school measures to support Covid safety, as previously outlined.

I will be in touch as soon as we have more information about vaccination dates and arrangements.

Yours faithfully



Mark Williams
Head Teacher