

Dear All,

COVID MEASURES UPDATE (effective from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022):

Further to Government announcements on 5th January 2022 and the Public Health England briefing on 6th January 2022, we have taken into account all available information and have created the following guidance to meet the challenges of the Omicron Variant and to help you through your decision making processes in the coming weeks.

Symptoms:

We have all lived with and know well the symptoms of the original COVID variants:

- continuous cough
- fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater)
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

However, the newer Omicron variant often creates the following symptoms within infected individuals:

- Runny nose
- Headache
- Fatigue (either mild or severe) / Body Aches
- Sneezing
- Sore throat

The challenge in relation to these new symptoms is that you could have these symptoms at any time of year if you were struggling with a common cold, hay fever, etc. and didn't have COVID at all. Therefore, we are going to start using the term 'unwell' instead of symptoms.

Parental Process Guidance:

If a student feels / appears unwell at home, they should do a Lateral Flow Test if at all possible. Similarly, if you have positive COVID cases in your household, students should do a Lateral Flow Test daily.

If the Lateral Flow Test is positive and your child has symptoms, go for a PCR Test and isolate them at home until the result is known.

If the Lateral Flow Test is positive but your child has not got symptoms, there is no need to go for a PCR Test (new temporary Government rule) but they should isolate for 7 days with 'Day 1' being the day after their test.

On Days 6 and 7, you need to do a lateral flow test and if these are negative, you can return to school on Day 8. If either of these tests are positive, then you continue to isolate until you have 2 consecutive days of negative tests or you complete 10 days of isolation, in which case you can return to school on Day 11 whatever your lateral flow tests are showing as you are then classed as not being a risk to others.

If your child tests positive, we need to be informed by contacting school via telephone or email.



**Heathfield:** Heathfield Road • Handsworth • Birmingham • B19 1HJ  
**Wheeler:** Wheeler Street • Lozells • Birmingham • B19 2EP

**Executive Headteacher**  
James Horspool

**Deputy Headteachers**  
Caroline Mace (Wheeler)  
Hayley Tinsley (Heathfield)

**Tel:** 0121 809 2500

If it is not possible to do a Lateral Flow Test and your child presents as unwell or there is COVID in your household, we respectfully ask you to consider whether it is possible to keep your child at home to support us with keeping potential COVID cases outside of the School Community and to protect our highly vulnerable children.

If a pupil becomes unwell in school, we will immediately isolate them in a safe place. We will then call the parents / carers to come to school to collect their child and request that they are taken for a PCR test.

If you have any queries, please contact the school.

Kindest regards,

James Horspool.  
Executive Head Teacher.  
Mayfield School.