

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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Covid 19 updates

As announced by the Department for Education(DfE) on Wednesday 19 January:

- From **Thursday 20 January 2022** face coverings are no longer recommended in classrooms for staff, and pupils in Year 7 and above.
- From **Thursday 27 January 2022** face coverings are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff, and pupils in Year 7 and above. It is our assumption that from 27 January face coverings will also no longer be recommended on school transport for pupils in Year 7 and above, in line with the announced changes for public transport. While face coverings are no longer required in classrooms, pupils and staff who choose to continue to wear face coverings in classrooms will be supported to do so.

Advice to schools that have reached an outbreak threshold

The DfE has advised that local Directors of Public Health are able to temporarily recommend the use of face coverings in communal areas, where it is judged to be a proportionate response to specific health concerns. Directors of Public Health continue to be able to advise individual settings experiencing outbreaks. We will inform parents and carers if local guidance is issued regarding face coverings and other protective measures.

Schools that reach an outbreak threshold will be advised to reinstate face coverings as a temporary measure in all communal areas, classrooms, and on school transport. This advice will apply to all staff, and to pupils in Year 7 and above.

We currently have increasing numbers of positive Covid 19 cases and will be working closely with our local Public Health teams. Individual classes with raising case numbers will be advised to take a daily lateral flow test. Parents and carers will be notified separately if this applies to their child.

Lateral flow testing

All parents/carers are advised to continue with the routine, twice-weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing of those aged 11 and above in the household. Further home test packs will be given out today. Families are also advised to order home testing packs using the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Please report all positive cases online using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>



Isolation periods

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after **5 full days** if they test negative with an LFD test on **both day 5 and day 6**, and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from 2 LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

This change applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.

Vaccinations

The COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available for 12–17-year-olds. The vaccines are safe and effective and there are different routes for 12-15- and 16–17-year-olds. We have been asked by Central Bedfordshire Council to share a leaflet with parents which will be issued alongside this letter.

All our protective measures remain in place including our current risk assessments, ventilation and enhanced hygiene precautions.

Thank you for your continued support of Edward Peake Middle School.

Yours sincerely



Miss Z J Linington
Headteacher