

Monday 1st November, 2021

Update on control measures – COVID

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to let you know that the Doncaster Public Health Team has issued updated guidance to schools in light of case rates in the area and the impact on local health services.

Local change to rules on household contacts

Doncaster Public Health have advised that, in this period of high cases in our local area, if someone in your household has tested positive for Covid 19 using an LFD or PCR test, that pupils/ students should stay at home and complete the following steps:

- If your child develops symptoms on day 1 or 2 they should get a PCR test straight away
- If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took a test if they had no symptoms)
- If this test is negative, the child can return to school and complete LFD tests for the remaining isolation period of the household member
- If the child develops symptoms at a later date, they must stay at home and PCR test again.

This applies to primary and secondary age children, unless your child has tested positive for Covid 19 via PCR in the past 90 days or has had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago.

If your child needs to stay at home under these rules, please let us know via info@highfieldspa.org.uk or call 651037, and we will work with you to provide them with high quality remote learning materials.

As you know, since the return to school in September, we have continued to provide high quality face to face education for our pupils/ students, delivering inspiring learning opportunities and experiences for your child, while following national guidance on Covid control measures. We will continue to:

- Strongly encourage all staff to complete twice weekly LFD tests.
- Maximise ventilation of classrooms
- Carry out additional cleaning, with a focus on frequently touched surfaces
- Use fogging machines to clean communal areas and classrooms on a rota basis
- Carry out activities such as PE outside, as much as possible
- Encourage hand and respiratory hygiene amongst staff and pupils.
- Advise visitors to stay away if they have any symptoms.

In light of the new local public health advice, we are also stepping up our in-school control measures for a two-week period in the first instance. The enhanced measures we will put in place from 2.11.21 are:

- Pupils/ Students will remain in their year group at break times, as much as possible Pupils/ Students will remain in their year group at lunch times, as much as possible.
- Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around the academy.

- Our outdoor sports clubs will go ahead, as we will not be using shared equipment. Unfortunately, our indoor clubs and Forest School clubs will not be able to go ahead until the review date, detailed below.

We will operate these enhanced arrangements for a two-week period, subject to regular review, until Monday 18 November. We will write to you before this date with an update on our plans.

We are looking forward to an exciting half term of learning and celebration in our school. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Sercombe
Head of Academy