



4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: COVID-19 Procedures and Lateral Testing on return to School

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to the year ahead. With our students expected to return to school tomorrow Wednesday 5th January 2022, please see below key information regarding COVID-19 and return to school.

Lateral Flow Device Testing

The government has requested that schools test students on their return to school. The intended benefits are clear. We will be able to identify those students, who are positive, but asymptomatic before they have been able to pass the disease onto others. Therefore, on return, all students will be offered rapid tests on site. We aim to test each student on Wednesday 5th January 2022. **We strongly encourage every student to be tested.**

We must have parental consent to provide the test to your son/daughter, to administer the test. Those parents who have already given permission do not need to complete the form again. However, if you wish your child to be tested and have not previously given permission, please complete the form by 9am on Wednesday 5th January 2022, by clicking this link <https://forms.gle/d1hp4BN8TWkbpAZd9>. If you no longer wish your child to be tested, please can you email me at kjames@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk to let me know.

Administration of the test does not take long and students will be able to go to class if results are negative. If the lateral flow test is positive then a member of staff will call to advise you. In this case, your child may be required to go home.

Students, and staff should also take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return to school, then continue to test twice weekly at home.

Mixing and 'Bubbles'

It is no longer recommended by the government to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). However, as we have recently had a number of positive cases, we may require students to remain in year groups (bubbles) for the next few weeks. Assemblies will take place remotely and students will sit in year groups at lunchtime in the dining hall.

Face Coverings

From 2 January 2022, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms. The government recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas however, we will be following the guidance from Hertfordshire County Council that students also wear facemasks in communal areas except when a) wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE or Music lessons, b) outside on school premises c) eating or drinking d) someone is exempt from wearing face coverings.

Secondary School

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Boarding School

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Symptoms

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

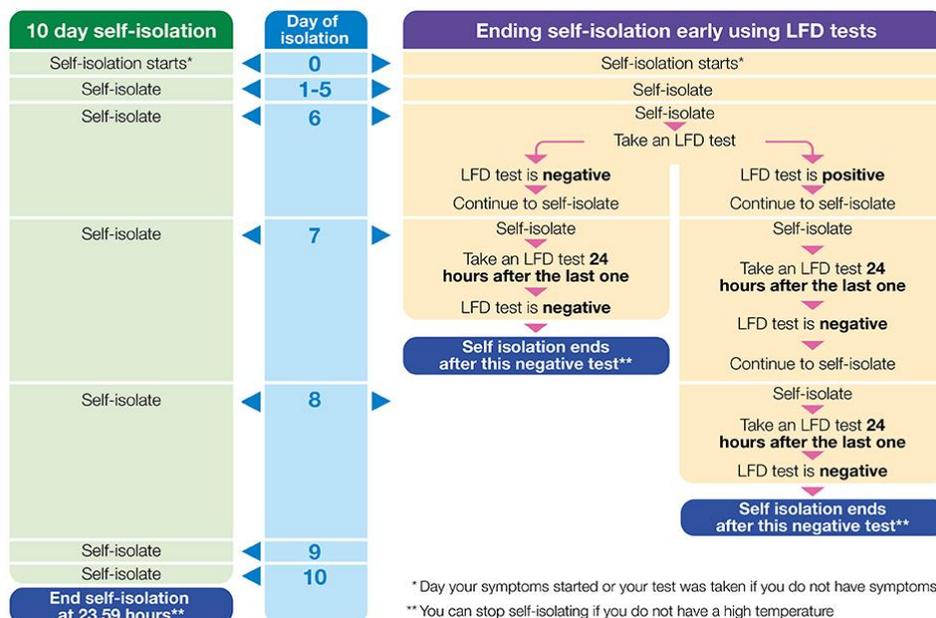
- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have any of the symptoms above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home and arrange to have a test.

Self-isolation

- If you are aged 18 years 6 months or over and you are not fully vaccinated, and you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you are legally required to stay at home and self-isolate. (note: *you are fully vaccinated 14 days after having received 2 doses of an approved vaccine (such as Pfizer/BioNTech, AstraZeneca or Moderna/Spikevax) or one dose of the single-dose Janssen vaccine*)
- Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site through ATS or at home.
- Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.
- Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting.

Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result.



Remote Education

School attendance is mandatory for all students of compulsory school age. However, in the event that a student has to self-isolate, we will support them to learn from home if they are well enough to do so. Where workforce issues arise, we may use existing teaching, temporary and support staff more flexibly where required to ensure our setting remains open, whilst ensuring that we continue to have appropriate support in place for pupils with SEND.

Control Measures

We will continue to:

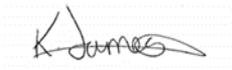
1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Please continue to work with us to ensure that our school community is safe for all.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at school, via either telephone or email.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K James', is written over a series of horizontal dotted lines.

Mr K. James
Interim Head teacher