

Dear Parents and Carers,

November 3rd 2021

Confirmed Cases of Covid 19 – URGENT ADVICE and GUIDANCE

There are now 30 students with confirmed cases of COVID-19, these appear to have been contracted during the half term holiday. Public Health Dorset have advised all Dorset schools that the infection rate for Covid is highest in the 10 – 14 age range at a rate of approximately 3000 in every 100,000.

The recent vaccination programme for the school was cancelled by the NHS – this is not something we as a school have any control over and I would respectfully ask that parents do not complain to the reception staff about this or anything to do with testing or vaccinations.

This is the highest level the academy has reached at any stage during the pandemic, but it is still significantly below most other secondary schools and we would want to keep it that way. We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health Dorset and Council.

As from today all close contacts of new confirmed cases will be identified and parents informed and given the relevant advice. Unless you are specifically notified that your child is a close contact, you do not need to take any further action.

The school remains fully open and providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep you informed should anything change.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

Do not send your child to school if they have any symptoms!

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, **you should organise for your child to receive a PCR test** via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119.

The LFD tests are primarily for asymptomatic testing. If they give a positive result you must then get a PCR test. The PCR test results arrive quickly and to mitigate against any spread of the virus we ask that students remain at home until they receive a negative PCR result or the 10 day isolation period is complete.

Wey Valley Academy

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Students who have tested positive with a LFD test MUST NOT return to school until they have had a negative PCR test or the 10 day isolation period is complete.

If a student tests positive with a LFD test and you choose not to take a PCR test they must isolate for 10 days – this 10 day period must be completed even if a few days later they test negative with a LFD test. They can only return to school after a negative PCR.

If someone within your home tests positive any close contacts must take a PCR test and return to school once a negative result is received.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

Lateral Flow Testing

Students are still expected to test at home each week on Sunday and Wednesday evenings and to upload their results by going to the school website:

<https://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/parents/covid-19-a-guide-to-testing/>

You will need to use your son / daughter's school login details to record the results.

We have plenty of test kits should you require them.

Please support the school in its efforts to keep infection rates down.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell
Principal

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