



Date: Wednesday 25th November 2021

COVID Update Letter for Parents

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I write following a text message sent today which, due to recent updates, had the incorrect information regarding the requirement for self-isolation of a household with a positive case. I would also like to remind parents of procedures and processes to ensure that students and staff in school remain fully supported as we continue to navigate through the COVID pandemic. The school website also has more detailed information should it be required: <http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>

1. What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they should not attend school/college and should stay at home. Actions:

- You should arrange for them to get a PCR test and inform school of the test results.
- Your child should not attend school/college while you are waiting for test results, even if they are feeling better.
- If the test is negative, they may return to school/college when well enough to do so.
- If the test is positive, they should continue to isolate and follow Public Health advice.
- You will need to notify school of the date of the onset of symptoms, the date of the PCR test and the isolation period instructed by NHS. *It is essential that this information is reported to school at the earliest opportunity.*

2. Regular Testing - Lateral Flow Devices

The school continues to provide all students and staff with Lateral Flow Device kits which we ask are used on a **Sunday and Thursday** evening. Should a positive result be given, students should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test, following the procedure outlined in point 1 above. School should be informed of the situation immediately and kept up to date with any confirmed PCR results and isolation periods given.

3. Household contacts of a positive case

Should there be a positive case in a student's household, all family members would be required to book a PCR test. They are not required to self-isolate for any period unless a positive result is returned, this includes while awaiting the result. Siblings can continue to attend school during this time. Detailed advice regarding self-isolation can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/if-youre-told-to-self-isolate-by-nhs-test-and-trace-or-the-covid-19-app/>

4. Keeping the school informed

Following notification of a potential positive case, parents will receive information via e-mail as to what further action to take. It is essential that parents regularly check e-mails and respond to the information requested. Any specific COVID enquires can be directed to:

covid.support@oldburywells.com

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5. School Actions

The school continues to work in line with all government requirements:

- a. Ensuring good hygiene for everyone.
- b. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
- c. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
- d. Following Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Should any additional action be required by the school, staff or students, this would be communicated to all families at the identified time. We continue to monitor cases in school and in our locality with the local Public Health team and will follow any recommendations given.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all families for their continued support. Our students continue to be responsible and show good awareness of actions to look after each other and to ensure we all remain safe. As we move into the winter season, despite the Covid and Flu vaccination program, we anticipate increased levels of typical cold and flu type symptoms which we all need to manage effectively.

Finally, I have included with this letter communication from Tanya Miles (Executive Director of People – Shropshire LA).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Tristham', written in a cursive style.

Lee Tristham
Headteacher

To Parents and Carers

Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 22 November 2021

My Ref: TM 13

Your Ref

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to take a moment to reflect on how the pandemic has affected and will continue to affect schools and education.

I was extremely pleased and proud to be appointed as Executive Director of People for Shropshire Council. I started this new role in late September and, as the role includes the responsibility for children and young people across Shropshire, I have spent recent weeks speaking to many headteachers across Shropshire and learning more about our education system.

Covid has brought us all many challenges and affected almost every aspect of our daily lives. It has unquestionably affected children and their education. Schools moved to remote education for a period time while also ensuring that key workers' children and vulnerable children could continue to access places in school. School staff have been some of our unsung heroes during the pandemic and our schools have done an amazing job. Parents too have played a vital role in supporting home learning and maintaining routines. I would like to say thank you for all of your efforts and support during this time.

The pandemic is certainly not over. Many schools will have seen a number of Covid cases since the start of the school year in September and some schools have seen quite a high number of cases. Equally, we have seen schools having to make difficult choices over events such as open evenings for Year 6 pupils. I know that this brings disruption not only to schools but also to families but by working together we have made our way through this difficult period.

Current Covid case rates in Shropshire are among the highest in the West Midlands (see table below). We should all continue to play our part to reduce the spread of the infection. We would urge parents and carers to remain vigilant towards Covid symptoms, arrange PCR tests where you have concerns and regular LFT testing, encourage handwashing and good hygiene, and keep indoor areas well ventilated. As always, we would encourage parents and carers to use face coverings in enclosed spaces such as in school buildings and to remember to observe social distancing guidelines.

The Covid statistics for Shropshire (5-11 November) are shown below:



Christmas is always a busy time in schools. Traditionally, schools would arrange a variety of exciting activities such as Christmas performances, carol concerts, school fayres and Christmas parties. Schools will be making decisions as to what can and can't go ahead this year. Each school will be different and headteachers will be making decisions based on factors that apply to their school. These factors would include the number of covid cases, the spaces available in school, corridor spaces, ventilation and so on. It is likely that some schools will arrange a number of Christmas activities while other schools will be unable to do so. Each school will have guidance from the DfE and from Shropshire Council. Importantly we place our full trust in headteachers and their ability to make the right decision for their school community.

Most secondary school pupils will now have been offered a Covid vaccination and I would like to thank not only parents and schools but also the School Aged Immunisation Service for ensuring that this process went smoothly. Our levels of vaccination in 12-15 year olds are the highest in the region.

By continuing to work together we can make sure that young people get the very best education possible and I look forward to working closely with parents and schools in the future.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Miles
Executive Director of People