



Thursday, 27th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: COVID Updates 27-01-22

On Wednesday, 19 January 2022 the Prime Minister announced that the Government was ending England's 'Plan B' measures. This included the lifting of the recommendation that face coverings be worn in secondary school classrooms from Thursday, 20 January and subsequently lifting the rules requiring face coverings to be worn in communal areas in all schools from today.

This means that although we would still recommend the use of face coverings in busy areas of the school and on school transport, for staff and students the use of a face covering is a personal choice; as is the case in general society.

The school remains in contact with the local Public Health team to discuss any identified cases and will obviously take any action required where necessary to respond to any peak of cases in school.

Can I remind all families of the following points which are essential to help keep our school community safe and help protect staff and students, keeping school open and able to run as many opportunities under normal arrangements as possible:

- **School Safe Practices.** The school continues to recommend the use of face coverings in built up areas of school. Students are encouraged to regularly hand sanitise throughout the day using the sanitising stations. Staff across the school ensure good ventilation in all areas and will regularly open doors and windows to support good airflow throughout.
- **Home Lateral Flow Testing (LFD).** All students have been provided with home testing kits and will receive a further supply of these shortly. Students should complete testing on a Sunday and Thursday evening weekly.
- **PCR Testing.** The advice remains that should an individual develop any of the main COVID symptoms, they should isolate immediately and book a PCR test following government advice. Main symptoms are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- **Self-Isolation.** The period of isolation for some positive cases may now be shorter than 10 days. If a person has a negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result on day 5 AND day 6 (for two consecutive days) then they can end their period of isolation. They should not take an LFT before the 5th day of their isolation period and should only end their self-isolation after they have had 2 consecutive negative LFTs, which should be taken at least 24 hours apart.
- **Close Contacts.** People who are fully vaccinated, OR children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, who have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFT every day for 7 days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- **Student Vaccinations.** Families are asked to take note of government guidance with regards to vaccinations and boosters.

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CEO: Mrs Sarah Godden
T: 01746 760509
c/o: Oldbury Wells School

Headteacher: Mr Lee Tristham
Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth
Shropshire, WV16 5JD

01746 765454
school@oldburywells.com



- **The use of face coverings.** The use of face coverings is recommended in busy areas of the school site and while on school transport, although this is now an individual's choice. Students are advised to keep a face covering with them to support them as and when needed.
- **Visitors into school.** All parents are asked only to attend school if an appointment has been made.
- **Further Information.** Further information can be found on the school's website:
<http://www.oldburywells.com/parent-information/covid-update>

Can I thank all families for their continued support as we move forward into the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

Lee Tristham
Headteacher