

Trentham Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer



COVID 19 – New Omicron Variant

You will be aware that over the weekend, the Government announced that in order to take precautionary action against the new Omicron variant of (COVID-19), some temporary control measures will need to be introduced in all secondary schools to reduce possible transmission. Therefore, with effect from Tuesday, 30 November, the following measures will be in place:

- Face coverings to be worn in communal areas across the Academy by staff, students and visitors. This will be mandatory apart from those exempt.
- Students (*Years 7 and above*) should continue to wear face coverings on public transport.
- Twice weekly testing for all students using lateral flow device (LFD) test to continue.
- Visitors to the Academy only where necessary. Please contact the school office before coming on to site on 01782 883200.
- All assemblies will be virtual (Zoom)
- Year 11 Parents' Evening will be virtual, 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm (*more details to follow*)

We have also looked ahead and with regret, have decided it necessary to cancel the Academy Christmas Concert and Christmas Community Lunch, scheduled to take place on Thursday, 16 December 2021. Please note however that bubbles **have not** been reintroduced and extra-curricular activities will continue as normal unless government guidance changes

You will find at the bottom of my letter, key guidance relating to COVID-19 and positive and suspected cases.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to keep our school community safe.

Yours sincerely

Mike Whittingham
Headteacher



Key Guidance Related to COVID-19 and Positive and Suspected Cases:

National guidance states that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result should stay at home and self-isolate immediately. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible. This still applies even if you have received one or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, you should stay at home and self-isolate. If you are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months **you are not required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.**

However, Public Health England's advice is that all students in Years 7 and 11 take a PCR test, and parents/carers are vigilant around symptoms.

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate and get a PCR test. This can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

Children who are a household contact of a confirmed case (PCR positive)

The Local Authority's recommendation for children who are a **household contact** of a confirmed case (PCR positive):

- Children should undertake a PCR test, with or without symptoms, and remain at home until a negative PCR is returned.
- If the PCR result is negative, then children can return to school.
- Children who are household contacts are also recommended to have a further PCR test after 4 – 5 days as a precaution, to check they have not become infected. They can continue to attend the setting when waiting on the second PCR result.

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)



For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID19.

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

