

COVID-19: UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS/ CARERS REGARDING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
FROM SEPTEMBER 2021

In August the guidance from the Department for Education and PHE regarding suspected/ positive cases of Covid-19 in school settings changed. The aim of the changes is to prioritise as normal an educational experience as possible for students and to lessen any disruption to their school life.

From the return to King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys on 6/9/21, the following advice will therefore apply:

- All students with parental consent (if under 16) will receive 2 lateral flow tests on their return to school (see separate back-to-school information for timings)
- Students will self-test at home with lateral flow tests twice per week through September. Students will receive home testing kits after their second lateral flow test in school
- (The DfE will review whether this needs to continue after September)
- Students who test positive with a LFT (either at school or home) should self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- Please continue to inform school if your son/ daughter is absent because of any Covid-related issue using the dedicated email address covidalert@handsworth.bham.sch.uk
- Please report non-Covid absences in the usual way to the school attendance officer
- There is no longer any requirement for close contacts/ household members of positive cases ie children (under the age of 18 and 6 months) or adults **who have received both vaccinations** to self-isolate. This means that if there is a positive case in a household, other family members can carry on as normal. In a school setting this means that we will no longer be informing parents/ carers of positive cases in school or sending close contacts home to self-isolate
- NHS Track and Trace will inform close contacts of positive cases to advise them to book a PCR test
- Any student with symptoms (cough, loss of smell/taste, temperature as well as sore throat, aches and general malaise) should not attend school but should book a PCR test. Please let us know the results of all PCR tests as soon as possible at covidalert@handsworth.bham.sch.uk
- The Department for Education and Public Health England may re-introduce further control measures if the school has multiple confirmed cases. We will always let parents/ carers know as soon as possible
- Remote learning for students self-isolating because of a Covid-related absence will be provided via Satchel One or MS Teams. Please address any queries to your child's form tutor

We thank parents/ carers for their continued support with issues around Covid-19. Should any of the above guidance change, we will let you know as soon as possible.