

29th September 2021

Dear Parents

COVID-19

I wanted to update you on our response to the increase in positive COVID-19 cases we have seen over the past few days.

Whilst the use of masks is no longer routinely recommended in educational settings, the guidance does state that 'stepping measures up' should take place if cases increase. We are not quite at this stage, but we are now strongly encouraging all staff and students to wear masks in corridors. We will continually review the measures in place and in the instance of a confirmed 'outbreak' we will liaise with Public Health England regarding any in-school restrictions that may need to be re-introduced.

Update

- In school 12–15 year old COVID-19 vaccinations took place today. The vaccinations were administered by Buckinghamshire School Nursing Immunisation Team to students in year 8, 9, and most of year 10.
- The following students will be invited for vaccinations in school on another date (date to be confirmed):
 - year 10 and 11 (unfortunately, the Immunisation Team were unable to administer vaccinations to some year 10 students or any year 11 students today due to NHS staffing and time constraints);
 - those who have had COVID-19 within the last 28 days;
 - those who were absent from school today;
 - those who did not complete an e-consent form.
- Year 11 were tested with LFD tests in School on Tuesday. Eleven students tested positive and we are now awaiting their PCR results.
- There is currently no evidence of internal transmission spikes in other year groups, although this is being monitored closely.

Outbreak Management and Contingency Planning

The following actions will take effect from tomorrow:

- No Year 11 assemblies until half term.
- Please could you encourage your son to continue twice weekly LFD testing on a Wednesday and Sunday and report any positive cases to attendance@rgshw.com.
- We will be LFD testing all consenting students on Friday morning to help identify any asymptomatic cases.
- If your son experiences symptoms of COVID-19, you must keep him at home and take him for a PCR test. If he has a negative PCR test, he can return to school.
- Please remind your son to wear a face covering on school and public buses and continue to wash and/or sanitise hands.
- We strongly recommend that students and staff wear face coverings in corridors.

Positive cases

When advising us of a COVID-19 related absence (using the email address attendance@rgshw.com), please confirm that you are taking your son for a PCR test and please e-mail with an update when you have the result (negative or positive). It is essential you provide as much information as possible and keep us updated to help us monitor the overall number of positive cases at RGS.

Please be aware that any student testing positive on an LFD test will be required to immediately self-isolate and undertake a [PCR test](#) before returning to school. [Current guidance](#) now states that members of the same household do not need to self-isolate providing they are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

Thank you for your ongoing support and if you have any COVID-19 related queries please e-mail our COVID-19 team covidqueries@rgshw.com.

Kind regards

Iain Wilson
Deputy Headmaster