



Cardinal Langley RC High School

'An Outstanding Catholic School' S48, March 2017

Rochdale Road, Middleton, Manchester, M24 2GL
T: 0161 643 4009 | E: admin@clrchs.co.uk | W: www.clrchs.co.uk
Headteacher: Mr A Bridson B.Sc. (Hons), MA (Education), NPQEL

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and managed to avoid the infection.

We are preparing to welcome all students back this week and have robust measures in place to ensure this can be done safely. The DfE has updated its guidance for schools and a summary of this is below.

Testing for students after the holiday period

Secondary school students are expected to undertake one on-site test on their return in January. This will use the same self-test kits that are used at home and will help reduce transmission after the period of social mixing during the holidays. **Parent / carer consent was collected in September and remains valid but if this was not provided at the time, or you want to withdraw consent, please provide a written note to the Form Teacher.**

Students are then strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to report all results to NHS Test and Trace. Students will be provided with a home test kit to bring home on their first day back in January.

It is important to prevent anyone with the infection from attending school. If possible, please take a lateral flow test the day before attending on the first day of term and do not attend if it is positive or have any symptoms.

Year 11, 12 & 13 return to school at 8.20am on Wednesday 5th January with the remaining year groups returning on Thursday 6th January.

Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8. **Please report these results to NHS Test & Trace and provide evidence to school of the negative LFD tests on days 6 & 7.**

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.





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School will continue to contact parents / carers of those that have been in the same class / group of a positive case and are likely to be a close contact and advise that daily LFD testing is expected. This is in addition to any contact that might be made by NHS Test and Trace.

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on COVID-19 vaccination for at-risk 5 to 11 year olds, and booster doses for at-risk 12 to 15 year olds and all 16 to 17 year olds

Vaccines are our best weapon against this virus and our booster programme has accelerated rapidly, with almost 30 million doses of boosters or third doses administered, and more than half of adults jabbed, securing vital protection. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of infection, helps break chains of transmission and is safe and effective – so we encourage all those eligible to consider taking up the offer.

On Wednesday 22nd December, the government accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised shortly.

In response to the threat from the Omicron variant, the JCVI advised that a Pfizer booster vaccine should be offered to:

- children aged 12 to 15 years old who are in a clinical risk group or who are a household contact of immunosuppressed individuals, and those who are severely immunosuppressed and have had a third primary dose
- all young people aged 16 to 17 years old

The NHS will communicate how eligible children and young people can get their boosters shortly.

Updated guidance on the use of face coverings in education settings

From the start of term, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings.

Please ensure that all students attend school with at least one face covering as there will only be a limited supply in school for emergencies.

The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26th January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Exams and assessments in January

Some examinations and assessments will be taking place early in the new year and these should go ahead so students, who have worked so hard to prepare for them, have the chance to demonstrate what they know. Examinations and assessments in January will go ahead as originally planned.





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Contingency Plans

It is the Government aim to prioritise face to face learning and it is essential that everything possible is done to ensure young people remain in school. We all know that face-to-face education is the best way for children and young people to learn and that we have to balance this against wider public health risks brought by Covid-19.

All schools have been asked to review their contingency plans to keep as many students in face-to-face education as possible. If there are a high number of cases it might be necessary to reintroduce regular on-site testing or combine classes if there are significant staff shortages. As a last resort, it might be necessary for some groups to continue home learning for short periods if high levels of staff absence mean it is not possible to have all students on site. If this is the case, then face to face learning for examination years will be prioritised.

The full DfE guidance for parents / carers can be found [here](#).

I will continue to provide you with regular updates so we can work together to support our young people.

Mr A Bridson
Headteacher

