



15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

### **COVID-19 Cases**

Further to my letter to you on the 20<sup>th</sup> October about increased Covid cases within school and the need to introduce extra control measures, including increased home LFD testing, for at least 14 days after the half term, I write to provide you with a further update.

Thank you for all that you are doing to prevent transmission of COVID-19 in the local community, which will be contributing to the overall reduction in COVID-19 cases we are now seeing across the Local Authority. We have seen a significant reduction in positive case rates within school so the control measures we have put in place, combined with your support, are having the desired effect.

There has been a south west regional meeting of Directors of Public Health, UK Health Security Agency and the South West Schools Commissioner to review the advice provided to schools prior to half term around increasing measures to prevent the spread of COVID19.

Whilst cases and rates across the South West are falling, they still remain high, and particularly high in school-aged children and young people. Given the continuation of high levels of spread, the evidence of spread of infection in pupils, and the impact on staffing within schools, a decision has been made to extend the period of enhanced outbreak control measures for all schools until the end of November.

### **Existing control measure reminder**

As way of reassurance, the following control measures will remain in place:

- Face coverings must be worn on school transport and inside in communal areas
- Ventilation of all classrooms and indoor spaces
- Enhanced cleaning
- Hand sanitiser use on entry to and exit from each room
- Separate year group zone social areas at break and lunch time
- Halted Year Group assemblies and any other 'large gatherings and mixing' inside where social distancing is difficult to maintain.
- Isolation and sending home of students who develop symptoms whilst in school
- Increased frequency (3 times a week) of home asymptomatic LFD testing
- close contacts of confirmed cases (including siblings of confirmed household cases) advised to take daily LFD tests while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend school (unless they test positive or develop symptoms).

### **How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading – a reminder**

We are keen to ensure education can continue as normal as possible after the half term break; and we wish to advocate the following things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- **get vaccinated** – everyone aged 12 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#)
- **if you're symptomatic** -isolate and get a PCR test and isolate until a negative PCR result is returned (even if the LFD is negative)
- **if you think you are a close contact** -get a PCR test and follow close contact isolation guidance
- **wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly** throughout the day
- 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
- consider your social contacts – every contact carries a COVID risk, even with vaccinated people so:
  - consider whether to meet up at all
  - meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
  - open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
  - wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in weekly (now 3 times per week) LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

### **Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Again, thank you for your cooperation and continued support of us and our brilliant young people.

Yours sincerely,



Rod Bell  
Headteacher  
The Corsham School