



Weekly Mailing 25.02.22

Living with Covid

Following the Prime Minister's Living with Covid19 announcement on Monday 21st February, you will be aware that asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended. We will therefore not be issuing any more LFD test kits unless there is a known outbreak in school and we have been advised to resume testing after consultation with public health. Parents and carers can still order LFD tests until 1st April via the NHS or from a pharmacy: <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits> and we would recommend parents/carers ordering these so that they have tests available should their child exhibit cold type symptoms which are common with the omicron variant.

If your child is exhibiting the three commonly advertised symptoms of Covid (continuous cough, temperature, loss of or change to taste or smell), then your child should remain off school and seek a PCR test (available until 1st April), and not return to school until they receive a negative test result.

Control measures

We will continue to remind our school community to practise frequent and thorough handwashing, ensuring hand sanitizer remains available, continue to promote "catch-it, bin-it, kill-it", ensure appropriate ventilation measures are maintained balancing the need for ventilation with maintaining a comfortable temperature and continue to use CO2 monitors.

Face coverings are no longer advised in classrooms or in communal areas, however the wearing of face masks will still remain discretionary for both students and staff to wear in communal areas if they wish to do so.

We will continue to manage the movement and flow of students around the school. Students will continue to use outside routes as much as possible to reduce any overcrowding that may occur in the school corridors.

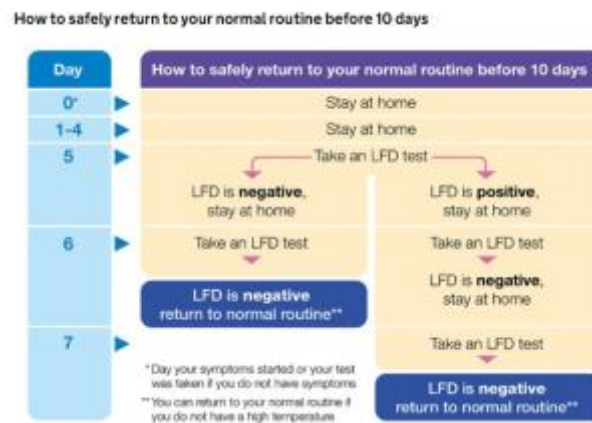
It is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face mask on school transport, however due to the nature of the confined and enclosed space on a bus, whilst wearing a mask is discretionary we would still recommend your child continues to do so.

Guidance if your child is unwell or tests positive

As mentioned already, you should seek a PCR test for your child if they have one of the 3 original symptoms. Lateral flow tests can be used to confirm Covid in the presence of some of the newer cold-like symptoms.

Those with Covid19 should continue to stay at home in line with the previous guidance, so for up to 10 days. LFD tests should be taken from day 5 (as previously) with a return to school once there have been two negative tests. Children and young people should not attend school while they are infectious and should start to take LFD tests from day 5. The chart opposite shows how to safely return to a normal routine before 10 days.

Children and young people who live with someone who has Covid19 should continue to attend school as normal. Those who live in the same household as someone who is positive are at the highest risk of infection and should follow the guidance about limiting contact in the home where possible. Close contacts no longer have to test daily.



Monitoring of cases

We will continue to monitor the number of cases within school but we will no longer inform parents of cases unless there is an identified outbreak and contingency measures need to be put in place. In these circumstances, contingency measures will be agreed in conjunction with public health. These measures may include the reintroduction of face masks in communal areas, or the reintroduction of LFD testing for a short period of time.

Remote learning

We will continue to provide remote education for students who are absent from school due to having contracted Covid19.

Expectations for Learning

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of our expectation of 100% school attendance as per the attendance section of our Expectations for Learning Policy. A copy of our Expectations for Learning Policy can be found on our website:

www.bassingbournvc.net/parents/policies.

Following my weekly mailing at the beginning of February, I would like to thank parents for their support in reiterating our uniform expectations, and mobile phone policy. As a reminder, students are not permitted to wear jewellery except for a wrist watch and one pair of studded earrings, all students should come to school each morning wearing a blazer, if students are cold a plain black jumper can be worn underneath - hoodies are not permitted. Finally school shoes should be black and leather.

Regarding our mobile phone policy, students are not permitted to be on their phones at any point of the school day, unless specific permission has been given in lesson by the teacher to use them for research purposes.

Students that are seen on their phones by a member of staff will have them confiscated and the phone will only be returned when parents/carers can arrange to collect them.

We do appreciate your ongoing support in this matter.

Communications sent home this week:

Year 11 Progress checks and practice exam results

Year 11 PSHE

Year 11 Celebration - hold the date

Year 11 Parents' evening reminder (2nd and 3rd March)

Year 8 - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time text (message from the Head of English)

Extra-curricular clubs @ BVC

A full list of our extra-curricular activities can be found on our website:

<https://bassingbournvc.net/students/extra-curricular/>

Finally

We very much look forward to seeing our Year 11 parents at our virtual parents' evening next week (2nd and 3rd March)

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support.

I hope you have a restful weekend.

Ms V Poulter

Principal