

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to inform you of the revised protocols for instances concerning Covid-19. As you will be aware, many restrictions were lifted over the Summer which included updating the guidance for close contacts of those with symptoms and who test positive for Covid-19.

Instances when pupils mus<mark>t s</mark>elf-isolate:

- Pupils must self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid-19. They must get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.
- If pupils have a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test, they should self-isolate and get a PCR test.
- Should a PCR test come back positive, pupils must self-isolate in line with Public Health guidance.

If a PCR test is negative, pupils should return to school.

Instances when pupils do not need to self-isolate:

- Pupils no longer need to self-isolate if a member of their household, or a close contact, has symptoms of Covid-19 or indeed tests positive, so long as the over-18s in the household are double-vaccinated. Any member of the household who is under 18 does not need to self-isolate-regardless of whether they have been vaccinated.
- Any pupils who have been identified as a close contact for a confirmed positive case do not need to isolate unless they have symptoms themselves. Pupils should take a PCR test and must continue to attend school whilst they await the results.

In the event of your child having to self-isolate, continuity of education is a priority for us. Teaching staff will provide the work being completed in their lessons to our remote learning platform on Microsoft Teams should a child have to self-isolate.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that once the 2 initial LFT tests have been taken by students in school, the usual 2 tests per week, undertaken at home by students will resume. These tests should be taken on a Sunday and Wednesday.

Please be reassured that at St Mary's College we will continue to treat the safety of all students and staff with the utmost importance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Stead- Head of School

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