

15 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of the ongoing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, we remain in regular contact with Tameside's Public Health Team. Currently the school has a lower rate of infections than we experienced at the start of the school year and there has been little impact on teaching staff which has resulted in no impact in respect of lessons. However, we are still experiencing some new infections in each of our year groups and we are keen to reduce the impact of children's learning.

In order to further reduce infections across each year group and the wider community we have been advised to implement a number of measures by Tameside Public Health. The first of these measures is to reintroduce face coverings for all students and staff at the school from Monday 18 October 2021 until the end of the half-term. This applies to all areas inside the building except when eating in the dining room. This will be reviewed before the start of the next half-term. **Therefore, unless your child has an exemption, we are requesting that all students wear a plain face covering from Monday when in school, including if using public transport or the school buses.**

In line with the national guidance, children are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms or test positive. **If your child has a positive Lateral Flow Test (LFT) or a positive PCR test at any point, please can you keep school informed by email on covid@lhs.aspireplus.org.uk.**

However, the second measure agreed with Tameside Public Health is that for next week, **if a child has a positive test for Covid-19, any siblings should arrange to take a PCR test and remain at home until the result is received.** If the result is negative, then they should return to school the same day. Public Health have also advised that following a negative test result all children should use a home LFT kit each day for 10 days. This is to help ensure that any household transmission is identified at the earliest stage. If the result is positive they must isolate in line with the advice they receive and inform the school using the email address above. If you require additional LFT kits please contact the school. Teachers will arrange work to be set for the students who are isolating due the measures we are introducing.

Despite all the measures we have introduced to protect the school and our wider community, it is possible that your child may be exposed to the infection whilst going about their daily activities. In light of this, the final measure Public Health have asked us to implement is to ask you to arrange a PCR test for your child over this weekend. This will help us to identify and isolate further cases, prevent onward transmission and minimise local case rates. If this test is positive, they must isolate for 10 days.

In order to arrange the test please go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. When you book the test please follow the advice below:

- You will be asked to identify whether your child has COVID symptoms. If your child has no symptoms, you should select 'No' for this answer and proceed through the questions until they get to the question: **Why are you asking for a test?**
- You should select the box that says - **I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional**
- And then the option that states: **My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms**
- You can then proceed to book the test.

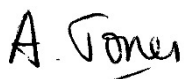
You can help to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting COVID-19:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- Allow ventilation into your house or workplace by opening windows and doors;
- Try to meet people outdoors if possible;
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately after using them and then wash your hands;
- Take regular Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests at least twice a week. These will be provided for students by school, and additional kits can be ordered for home delivery from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Thank you for your ongoing support with the above measures, and please do not hesitate to get in touch with school if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



Andrea Jones
Headteacher

