



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

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Dear Parent/carers,

I am writing to update you on the current situation regarding Covid cases at Montgomery. Following communication on Wednesday reminding parents/carers to supervise their child completing the mid-week Lateral Flow test, it was more likely that we would have more cases. There are currently 34 students at home who have tested positive with either a Lateral Flow Test or a PCR test.

I remind you again that any student that has any of the three main Covid symptoms of a loss/change of smell/taste, a recurring cough or a temperature **should not come to school and book a PCR test.**

As stated in the previous letter to parents, we are also following Public Health advice to keep students at home with 'minor' symptoms such as diarrhoea, stomach upset or any flu-like illness. Thank you to parents who followed our request to keep students at home who had 'minor' symptoms and book a PCR test to rule out Covid. Although not in the current government guidance, we would politely ask that if a student who has tested positive has a sibling in the school, that they stay at home as well.

I discussed the current situation with Public Health again on Friday and we agreed to review the situation on Monday following all students completing their Sunday Lateral Flow Test. This will help inform us if we need to re-instate any further restrictions, such as face masks in the coming weeks.

Therefore, it is essential that all parents/carers supervise their child completing a Lateral Flow Test **this weekend.** Ideally, please ask your child to complete their test on Sunday so our information is as up to date as possible for Monday. It is also very important that you inform us of the result.

- If it **negative**, then please complete this Google Form by clicking the link below, it takes 1 minute
 - <https://forms.gle/vnhnVRmBXaYQQVWKA>
- If it **positive**, then please email us on admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk with your child's full name and year group. In this case, please also book a PCR test for your child

The twice weekly testing will help us stop any asymptomatic cases coming to school and reduce transmission. Students were given the option to pick up more tests in the dining halls at break and lunch on Friday, though if you are without one this weekend they can still be collected for free from your local pharmacy or a Covid testing site.

If your son or daughter is at home for any reason, including a positive Covid result, and they are well enough to study then they can use our website to access their Remote Learning. This will mean that they do not fall behind with their work whilst at home, as the work set covers the same content they would be doing if they were in class. All instructions for the Remote Learning can be found by clicking on the 'Remote Learning Resources' button on the Montgomery's homepage.

Public Health were very clear that the way we can reduced further transmission and keep all year groups learning in school, is to maintain high levels of testing at home. We want to avoid moving to remote learning unless we really have to. It was late on Wednesday evening when we sent out the link for registering a negative result. Even so, almost 300 parents registered their child's result that evening. It would be great if we could get the majority of parents to register their child's result this weekend.

This will help us ensure that students in school are safe to be in school. The Lateral Flow tests should be completed whether or not students have been vaccinated. There is clear scientific evidence that a person can still contract and transmit the virus, even if they have been vaccinated.

All Blackpool schools were contacted last week about a further offer of vaccinations for 12-15 year olds. As has been said before, Montgomery takes no view on whether students should have the vaccination or not. However, I feel compelled to ask if there are any parents whose child is not yet vaccinated, who now wish to get their child vaccinated at school. Any parents/carers of 12-15 year olds can already book a vaccination through their GP or at a local Vaccination Centre, as several of our students have. If you are interested, then please can you complete this 20 second form and we will see if we enough interest for the team to come back.

<https://forms.gle/oU2jiYWnmH5HbrY28>

We will continue to liaise closely with Public Health to try to limit any further spread of this outbreak, and hope that any inconvenience from the additional measures introduced last week will be short term.

We all want the school to continue to be fully open for learning and by working together to tackle this issue we will prevail.

Regards,



Stephen Careless
Headteacher