

Emailed on 28/11/2021

Dear members of the Langley Community,

Following the Governments weekend Covid briefing, we have this evening received updated information from the Department for Education. The full update can be found at the end of this e mail.

To summarise

- From tomorrow all Staff, Visitors, Students and Pupils year 7 and above, unless exempt, will be required to wear a face covering in communal areas, as previously in place, this will extend to corridors, dining areas (unless seated and eating) assemblies and areas of group congregation, such as the Alston Centre, school halls, staff meeting areas and school transport. It is not a requirement to wear face coverings in classroom areas, but you may do so if you wish to.
- Twice weekly lateral flow testing should be firmly in place now for staff and years 7 and above, please ensure you continue this regime and record all results to test and trace and the school portal. Test kits continue to be available for collection at all reception points at senior site and from Matron at Prep site, please ensure you sign your kits out as you collect them.
- If identified as a close contact by NHS test and trace you may order a PCR test at [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) further information regarding isolation can be found at [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#)
- All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters

We are of course mindful that this information is at very short notice and appreciate that tomorrow will be very much a day of 'finding our feet' moving back to the routine of wearing face coverings as a general rule, we will work as quickly as we can to have further masks available at all reception points, but please do bring your own where possible and encourage pupils and students to do so also.

Kind regards

Rachel Smith

Director of Compliance and Operations



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Information for all education and childcare settings on new measures in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while we gather more information. We will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.

Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

Contact tracing and isolation

The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them.

Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

To book a vaccination, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

Changes to the red list for international travel to England

Individuals arriving in England from red list countries must follow the [red list](#) rules.

South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe moved onto the red list at 12pm Friday 26 November. Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia were added to the red list 4am Sunday 28 November.

Schools, out of school settings and colleges will want to consider whether to go ahead with planned international educational visits at this time, recognising the risk of disruption to education resulting from the need to isolate and test on arrival back into the UK.