

05/05/2022

Dear Parents / Carers

### Covid19 Procedures in school

Following announcements by Welsh Government earlier this week, I wanted to update you on the way we will be working for the remainder of the term, and to highlight some changes in their guidance which will affect us all.

1. Face coverings:

As they have been since the start of this term, face coverings are now optional in school and on school transport. Whilst the Coronavirus is still prevalent in our community, this is a matter of personal choice, and students will have our full support whether they choose to wear a face covering or not.

2. If your child has Covid19 Symptoms:

If your child has a high temperature, a continuous cough or a loss or change of taste or smell, please keep them off school and arrange for them to complete a lateral flow test. We will continue to check for these symptoms in school for the time being, and will ask you to collect your child if they are exhibiting any of them.

3. Lateral Flow testing:

Staff and students are no longer required to carry out regular, asymptomatic, lateral flow testing. However, if you have symptoms of the virus you should use these tests to identify whether or not you have it. You should also continue to report test results using this link: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result). All the details you need regarding ordering and using these tests is available on our website here: [https://www.aberconwy.conwy.sch.uk/en\\_gb/covid-19-lft-testing/](https://www.aberconwy.conwy.sch.uk/en_gb/covid-19-lft-testing/)

4. Isolation for positive C19 cases:

If any student or member of staff tests positive for the virus, they should self-isolate. The isolation period remains at 10 days, but if your child records negative lateral flow tests on **day 5 and day 6** of the isolation period, they may finish their isolation early on **day 6** (and return to school). If not, they should continue testing until they receive two consecutive negative tests.

Self-isolation of GCSE, AS and A level candidates:

If your child is undertaking exams this summer and they test positive, the length of time they need to stay in isolation has been reduced in some circumstances to reduce the disruption it may cause. The isolation period remains at 10 days, but if any student undertaking exams records negative lateral flow tests on **day 3 and day 4** of the isolation period, they may finish their isolation early on **day 4** (and return to school). If not, they should continue testing until they receive two consecutive negative tests.

5. Household contacts:

This term, in line with national guidance, we suggest that staff and students who have been in close contact with family members testing positive complete a daily lateral flow test for a period of 7 days. As long as these tests remain negative, your child may continue to attend school.

I hope this provides a useful summary of how we will be operating this term – if you need any further information by all means get in touch with us or you can access the government's guidance here:

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation>.

In conclusion, as we appear to be reaching the end of restrictions in school, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all the help and support you have given to the school, and of course your children, over the last two years. This has been a very challenging time for us all but I have been very impressed by the resilience and positivity shown by our students throughout. We look forward to the ongoing return to some kind of normality, and being able to offer all the activities, support and inspiration they enjoyed before the global pandemic.

With kind regards,

Ian Gerrard

Headteacher.

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