

# CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

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Proud Headteacher: Mr P Smith (BA) Hons NPQH



Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## RE: Covid-19 Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure that you are aware that the rapid spread of Covid-19 over the Winter break has resulted in a number of changes to the processes and protocols both inside and outside of school. I have summarised these changes for you below.

### Face Coverings in School

The Department for Education [DfE] has instructed that all students need to be wearing face coverings in all areas of school, this includes inside classrooms. Therefore, from Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2022, students will be required to wear a face covering everywhere inside the school building. If your child does not have a face covering, we will provide one. Students who are exempt from wearing a face covering will need to be wearing their lanyards. The DfE has said it will review this decision towards the end of January. When I know more details, I will let the community know.

### Home Lateral Flow Device Tests [LFD]

Students have been periodically receiving lateral Flow Device home testing kits. Testing is a great way of reducing the spread of the coronavirus as it immediately shows if you have Covid-19. I would like all students to keep testing twice a week. There are a number of guidance documents to support this which can be found on the school website <https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/information/covid-19>

### Self-Isolation Periods for Positive Covid Tests

Over the last few days, the government has stated that if you receive a positive Lateral Flow Device test result, this shows that you have tested positive for Covid-19 and there is no need to take a PCR test.

If you do test positive on a Lateral Flow Device test you will now be required to self-isolate for 7 days. However, you will need to receive a negative Lateral Flow Device test result on day 6 and day 7 of the isolation period. If a Lateral Flow Device test is still showing positive, then the isolation period remains as 10 days.

However, if you are demonstrating symptoms of Covid-19, you should still book and get a PCR test.

If one of your family members test positive for Covid-19 and you have any other children that attend school, can they please take daily Lateral Flow Device tests before they come into school. If the result is positive, please follow the guidance above.

### Assemblies and Trips

Due to the increased rates of infection, we will temporarily be stopping face to face assemblies and scheduled school trips.

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## Covid-19 Vaccinations

Last term, students between the ages of 12 and 15 were eligible to receive their first Covid vaccination at school through the NHS. This offer will be available again and the date allotted to CODA is March the 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. I will write to parents in the near future to provide further details.

## Additional COVID Safety Reminders

As a reminder, if your child is experiencing symptoms of the coronavirus, they should get a PCR test and not attend school unless the result is negative.

I am also urging parents/carers and students to continue to follow the safety measures that are in place.

These are:

- Wearing a face covering inside the school building
- Regular sanitising when moving around the school site
- Moving around school on the left-hand side of corridors
- Wearing face coverings on all public transport and when car sharing

## Face Coverings and External Exams

As communicated before Christmas, we have a number of exams taking place this week and in forthcoming weeks. These are "real" examinations and contribute to final grades, so students must prepare for them.

Hospitality and Catering - Wednesday 12th January

Construction (Unit 1) - Friday 14th January

Construction (Unit 3) - Monday 24th January

Health & Social Care - Wednesday 9th February

Child Care - Thursday 10th February

Can I please remind students that there is an expectation that masks should be worn when entering and leaving the exam room. However, as the desks are socially distanced, students do not need to wear face coverings during their exams.

## Remote Learning

Where students test positive for Covid-19 but remain well enough to work then students can access work from their Microsoft Teams account. Students can review previous work and, where appropriate, access work that is currently being taught in school. This can also support students to catch up from previous absences. Further guidance on remote learning can be found at <https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/remote-learning/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Smith  
Headteacher

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