

CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

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Proud Headteacher: Mr P Smith (BA) Hons NPQH



Thursday, 20 January 2022

RE: Covid-19 Update - URGENT

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday the Prime Minister announced that Plan B measures will be removed in England, with a full return to Plan A by Thursday 27th January. However, infection rates are still very high in Derby and following the latest 'Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance' [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101422/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance) we have been taking additional guidance from our local UKHSA health protection team. Following these discussions, the following changes to protocols at CODA have been put in place.

Since we have returned from the winter break, Covid cases in the school have been relatively low and we have remained open to all year groups. This is a fantastic achievement, but I would like to encourage as many members of the school community as possible, to continue to take precautions to stay safe. My concern is that if cases continue to rise and absence gets any higher, we might be forced to return to Remote Learning for some year groups.

Face Coverings in School

- From today, students are not required to wear a face covering in lessons. However, if students want to continue to wear a face covering, we encourage that.
- Face coverings will still need to be worn in communal areas of the school. This includes corridor spaces and when lining up for food at break and lunch time.
- From Thursday 27th January face coverings are not required to worn as we return to Plan A. However, I would like to strongly encourage as many students and staff as possible to continue to wear a face covering due to the high infection rates across the city.

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

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 5 days. However, you will need to receive a negative Lateral Flow Device test result on day 5 and the morning of day 6 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.

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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 continue to pause face to face assemblies and review each individual scheduled school trip on its safety.

Parents Evenings

Thank you to all parents and students who participated in last night's Parents Evening. The next scheduled Parents Evening is for Year 9 on the 9th February. As the infection rates are still high in Derby this event will be remote on the Parents Evening application 'School Cloud'. Our Year 9 Guided Choice evening is also scheduled at the start of March. We will review the infection rates nearer to the time and make a decision about whether this event can be face-to-face.

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 4th March 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 in communal areas of the school
- 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

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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