



Pensby High School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past week we have received clarity that from Thursday 27th January face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas or classrooms. Although pupils should continue to follow wider advice on wearing face coverings outside of school, including on transport to and from school. This means that from tomorrow we will not be enforcing masks in school although **students can still continue to wear them should they wish to.**

We would like to thank you and your children for their support wearing face coverings in school so far this term. Currently we have 34 students absent who have tested positive either at home or at school which whilst still high has dropped significantly.

The new isolation rules mean that students with a positive test result should self-isolate at home for five full days. They can leave isolation after 5 full days as long as they test negative on day five and day six. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5. If they remain positive on day 5 a negative test is required on day 6 and 7. In other words two consecutive tests 24 hours apart are required to allow release from isolation (and **you** have to test them and report their results to school) and the NHS.

After 10 days all students should then return to school regardless of whether the LFD remains positive as it can still read as positive for up to 90 days.

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

You no longer need to take a PCR test to confirm the LFD test result unless you have symptoms.

If your child has symptoms they should still aim to book a postal or walk-in PCR test regardless of home testing results. Currently PCR tests are in extreme short supply however if a PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test and your child can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you are a close contact of someone with COVID 19 you may not have to self-isolate are not legally required to isolate. Instead, such people will be now advised to test all close contacts in the home daily during the seven-day isolation period. This means that if there are siblings in the home that they can continue to attend school as long as their daily LFD test continues to be negative.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you need any clarity on the guidance please find the link to the gov.uk website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please share with school your notification of results from a PCR or positive LFD taken at home by emailing: **returntoschool@psf.wirral.sch.uk**

Remote Learning

If isolating with COVID students will be set work at home to complete if they are well enough. This work will be set on Teams and all students have been shown how to log onto the system however they can email their Head of Year if they have any difficulties.

Please be aware that we will always try our best to ensure work is provided however we also have staff who are isolating and are trying our best to keep school running therefore these lessons will not be 'live' lessons and will not always be set at the time of their normal lesson. Equally we cannot put work on-line immediately after being told of a self-isolation as we do need time to inform staff who will already be teaching. If you need anything in the short term there are excellent resources available free through [Oak National Academy \(thenational.academy\)](https://www.thenational.academy). We hope you understand that whilst we will try our best it might not be perfect.

Any queries, questions or concerns please contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Flanagan

Headteacher