



## Pensby High School

Irby Road, Heswall, Wirral.  
CH61 6XN

T 0151 342 0570

F 0151 342 0571

E [schooloffice@psf.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@psf.wirral.sch.uk)

[www.pensbyhighschool.org](http://www.pensbyhighschool.org)

Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

1 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have another case of COVID in the school and a number of students from Year 9 are currently being sent home. These students have all sat within 2 metres of the case within classrooms or been identified as a close contact by the person who has tested positive. There is very clear guidance around what constitutes a close contact and we follow this exactly as given. This does create more work and sometimes delays the process by a few hours, but by following the guidance we minimise the number of students sent home for each case.

Whilst I cannot say that this system is perfect, no system is, however, I have at every stage tried to limit the number of students required to stay at home and to date I have not sent home a whole year group or even a whole class home as a result of a confirmed case. I do realise that some students and parents are anxious, worried about potential close contact, but we are only sending home students where we have to. Already I have had to send home hundreds of students, but to date, to the best of my knowledge, we have had no in-school transmission between confirmed cases and close contacts within school. The requirement to send close contacts home is purely precautionary and given that we try to limit to the absolute minimum in terms of close contacts, I think it is quite significant that we have not seen linked transmission between students.

I do not want to send students home, I worry about how we can ever close the gaps in learning, social development, friendships, extra-curricular etc etc.. I will though always send home students when they are a close contact, but please try not to be anxious with regard to cases in school, it mirrors cases in our community and to date, whilst we have had adults within the community significantly impacted upon by COVID, we have not seen the same impact on students. Most importantly, there is no evidence of in-school transmission posing a risk to students at this time.

Close contacts have to self-isolate for 10 days and this is irrespective of any PCR test results for close contacts. This holds true if you are a close contact at school or picked up by the NHS test and trace system. The 10 days are required not by the school, but by the government itself and is the period of time within which COVID can develop, and an individual can be contagious.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Flanagan  
Headteacher