



27th September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

COVID Operations Update at John Ferneley College

Thank you for continuing to do all you can to protect each other. As reported by the government within the last week, we are very aware that 12-15 year olds continue to be vulnerable in catching the coronavirus, with multiple cases now being reported in many secondary schools across the country.

This letter is to inform you that John Ferneley College has received an increase in a number of positive PCR tests within the last few days, predominantly in Years 9 – 11.

With the change in restrictions ([sent home to all parents/guardians on 2nd August 2021](#)), please be reminded that we no longer report every positive case with you, nor complete close contact track and trace in school. Along with the updated guidance linked above, the NHS are now managing the track and trace element for all secondary schools.

We will, of course, ensure that parents/guardians are kept regularly updated on the status of our cases. In the event of a severe school outbreak extra action might be considered when cases reach a threshold, which could include face coverings in communal areas and classrooms for students or moving group activities outdoors, for example.

Reporting a positive case - jfcattendance@johnferneley.org

Should your child test positive on a lateral flow or PCR test, please phone the school to report immediately, or email our **Attendance Team** at jfcattendance@johnferneley.org, who will then mark your child as self-isolating and confirm the return date with you.

Like us, I am sure you are keen that your children remain in school this academic year and we want to remind you of the ways you can help this happen:

1. Keeping our school community as safe as possible

We are very pleased to see how much maturity and resilience our students continue to show throughout home testing, with self-testing kits. We are awaiting another delivery this week, for distribution.

Please can we remind you as parents/guardians that **home testing twice weekly remains important** in reducing the risk of transmission of infection between staff and students. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, if necessary, in response to the latest data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Remember, kits are widely available from local pharmacies or can be ordered online too.

2. Taking precautions

There are many precautionary measures your child can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

Please see overleaf.....

- wash your hands with soap and water often, and utilise the hand sanitiser stations in and around school
- when you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **Remember, it remains a legal requirement that anyone who tests positive or has symptoms of COVID-19 stays at home and gets a PCR test.**
- **From Monday 16th August, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace, as a close contact. They will just be advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test, if advised to do so.**

Confirmatory PCR tests

Staff and students with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#). They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19 to confirm the result.

You can book your PCR test online through the government website here > <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and the pupil can return to their setting, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Those with a negative LFD test result can also continue to attend school.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

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