

5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the winter weeks approaching and the increase in confirmed cases of Covid-19 nationally and locally, we have been advised by Public Health Haringey of the process we will now adopt for those children who may be identified by the school as having been a close contact to a person testing positive.

Should your child be identified by the school as a close contact to the person testing positive we will ask that:

- Your child should continue to attend school if they are feeling well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19.
- Your child should book in for a PCR test which can be arranged by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Within Haringey, tests are available from Stamford Hill Primary School, N15, and the Irish Centre, N17 (appointment only). PCR tests can also be arranged to get posted to you and these should arrive the following day.
- In addition to arranging a PCR test, we kindly ask that your child takes a lateral flow test (rapid test) as soon as possible and before returning to school. Your child should take a lateral flow test every day for a total of 7 days. If the test is positive, your child should arrange for a PCR test (even if they have already had one in the previous days) to confirm the result.

Families can collect a lateral flow testing kit from any local pharmacy (or library). A full list of where to collect testing kits is available here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>. If you are unable to collect one, lateral flow testing kit can be posted to your address using the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

New evidence has emerged suggesting that lateral flow tests are more than 80% effective at detecting any level of COVID-19 infection which is much higher than previously thought. They are therefore being advised to use more routinely within schools as a useful public health tool for limiting the spread of the virus but must only be used by those showing no symptoms of COVID-19.

Because it can take up to 10 days before symptoms appear after having had contact with a positive case, we will ask you do not send your child to school if they start to feel unwell during this time. If your child starts to feel unwell within 10 days of being told of having been in contact with someone who has tested positive, you should arrange for a PCR test for them immediately – regardless of having previously tested negative a few days before on a PCR test or a lateral flow test.

Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.

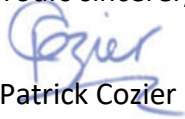


If your child does need to stay at home then we ask that you inform our Attendance Officer, Ms King (dki@hws.haringey.sch.uk) who will then be able to put the appropriate code on the registers to alert teachers to set work on Google Classrooms for your child to complete if they are well enough to do so. They should endeavour to follow their regular school timetable, with the exception of tutorial time.

I do hope that the numbers of students who will be required to stay at home in the coming weeks can be kept to an absolute minimum and, with this in mind, I continue to encourage you to maintain the twice-weekly covid self-tests as well as the safe behaviours, including wearing face coverings on public transport, that are currently recommended.

I thank you for your support as we continue to stride towards keeping our school and wider community safe.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Cozier
Headteacher

For more information:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/ or by phone 111