

Covid-19: PLAN B

Temporary restrictions and systems in place to respond to the concerns from the omicron variant during January 2022.



INTRODUCTION

On 27th November 2021 the Prime Minister announced the introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant . These Plan B measures were enacted on 8th December, but were also refined on 2nd January 2022 to incorporate the temporary return of face-coverings in school classrooms (as well as communal areas) and a number of other initiatives.

The government guidance is available here:

- [What to expect when schools, colleges, universities and early years settings return after the Christmas break](#)
- [An open letter from Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi to education and childcare leaders](#)
- [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#)
- [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges](#)
- [What does Covid Plan B mean for schools, colleges, universities and early years?](#)

These links, together with other information, are also available on the [Highgate Wood School website](#).

This booklet is to outline the main impact of these temporary changes on life at Highgate Wood School in the coming weeks.

Please be aware that the government have stressed that these measures will be temporary. Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire on 26th January, at which point things will be reviewed. We do not anticipate the measures, particular the requirement to wear face coverings in classrooms, to extend beyond then.

As ever, the school will carefully follow government guidance and Public Health advice and all our procedures will be kept under review.

The vaccination programme for secondary school students continues and more information on this can be found [here](#)



FACE COVERINGS

All students will be required to wear face coverings in classrooms, as well as in communal areas, unless they are exempt. Students should also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport. Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors.

We ask families to ensure that their child comes to school with a face covering and to encourage them to wear these when required. Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19

Please be aware that the government guidance does not ordinarily expect teachers to wear a face covering in the classroom if they are at the front of the class, to support education delivery, but decisions around this need to be made by the individual teacher.

The requirements around face coverings in school are temporary and will be reviewed on 26th January 2022.

VENTILATION

The government has recognised the importance of good ventilation and has supplied schools with some CO2 meters and also allowed schools to apply for a small number of air purifiers. Highgate Wood School has already made use of CO2 meters to determine the air flows within classrooms and access the ventilation available. During this time teachers will allow students to wear their outdoor coats in the classroom should that be necessary to maintain good ventilation by opening windows. Usual uniform rules will continue to apply, however, and it is the teacher rather than the student who will determine whether it is appropriate to allow the wearing of coats.

PE KIT

Students will be asked to wear their PE kit to school on the days that they have a PE lesson. This will remove the need for them to change into their kit during the day. It is important that students are aware that this only applies to the days when they have PE on their timetable and that it must be the official school PE kit. If there is an after-school sports activity in which they are involved and which requires them to be in PE kit, this will require separate permission from the member of PE staff concerned (usually students will be asked to change into their PE kit for after school events). On their PE days students should also wear the school blazers over their PE kit.

COVID TESTING

Students continue to be encouraged to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart, LFD test kits are available from the school, but can also be [ordered online](#) or obtained from a chemist. They should also report their result online.

POSITIVE LFD TEST RESULTS OR COVID SYMPTOMS

If a student has a positive test result, or if they have any of the Covid-19 symptoms, they should not come to school. If a student has received a positive LFD test result they should self-isolate, follow the [stay at home guidance](#) and order a PCR test. Similarly, if a student has developed Covid-19 symptoms they should order a PCR test.

If the student's PCR test is negative then they may return to school. Otherwise they must self-isolate

POSITIVE TEST RESULT AND SELF-ISOLATION

The period required for self-isolation has now been reduced from 10 days to seven days. This only applies, however, if you take a lateral flow test on day six and day seven of your self-isolation period. If those test results are negative you no longer need to complete the 10 full days of self-isolation. The 10 day period will remain, however, if you are unable to take the LFD tests.

ISOLATION RULES FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

Young people between 5 and 18 and a half, or adults who have been fully vaccinated, no longer need to self-isolate if they have been identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19. Instead they should take a lateral flow test every day for seven days and, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time, they should continue to attend school as normal.

REMOTE WORK FOR STUDENTS SELF-ISOLATING

If a student is required to self-isolate the Attendance Officer, Ms King, should be informed by email (dki@hws.haringey.sch.uk) This will allow a mark to be put in the register to alert the student's teachers that they are self-isolating and, if well enough, require work to be set on Google Classrooms. Students self-isolating should follow their regular school timetable of lessons. **For any issues with access please contact data@hws.haringey.sch.uk**

MEASURES TO KEEP AS MANY STUDENTS IN SCHOOL AS POSSIBLE

The current numbers of working people who are unable to attend work due to Covid-19 or other reasons has impacted on all industries and professions. Nadhim Zahawi, the Education Secretary accepts that there will be occasions where staff absences are so substantial that schools will have to resort to remote learning for some year groups or even the whole school. However, the hope is that everything possible will be done to keep this to a minimum. As a result there may be times when classes are regrouped, teachers redeployed or other changes put in place to provide a temporary solution to a staffing crisis.

If and when it becomes necessary to resort to remote teaching for a year group the school will do everything possible to ensure that families are informed in good time.

PLANNED EXAMS

All exams and assessments for January will go ahead as planned. This includes the Year 13 mock examinations which begin on 10th January. All appropriate safeguards will be in place to ensure that these examinations are Covid secure.