



15 October 2021

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Advice from Public Health Devon

Over the last five weeks we have been monitoring the COVID-19 cases at the College and are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), previously Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Students and staff who have tested positive are isolating. The small number of children who have been identified as contacts of the confirmed case will have guidance from NHS Test and Trace and will be advised to take a PCR test. Outbreak control measures are also in place and being kept under review.

If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance [here](#).

Increase Lateral Flow Testing

Due to the number of cases currently within the College, after discussion with Devon County Council Public Health we are advising that students and staff increase rapid lateral flow device (LFD) testing to **3 times per week** for the time being. We hope this will help identify students quickly who have COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms. We would ask that tests are taken on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, or Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We have provided your child with the LFD tests.

LFD tests should only be used by people without symptoms of COVID-19. If your child's LFD test is negative, and they remain without symptoms, they should attend College as usual. If the test is positive please inform us immediately by sending an email to our dedicated inbox covidnotification@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk whilst isolating at home and arrange for a confirmatory PCR test using the link below or by calling 119.

Continued Wearing of Face Masks

Public Health Devon have strongly advised that the wearing of face masks in all inside communal areas continues.

Please note, that the College has noticed a decline in this and would respectfully request that parents/carers support us on this matter.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should organise for your child to be tested via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. Your household should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear. Fully vaccinated adults, and children and young people aged below 18 years and six months do not need to isolate as close contacts of someone with symptoms, or as a close contact of a confirmed case, but are advised to take additional caution.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or

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- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

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How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

Do:

- Keep a safe distance (at least 2 metres) away from people you do not live with or who are not in your support bubble.
- Reduce the time spent in crowded areas where it may be difficult to social distance.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Clean surfaces often, paying particular attention to surfaces touched frequently (e.g. light switches or electronic devices).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues into a rubbish bag immediately and wash your hands.
- Wear a face covering in indoor spaces where social distancing may be difficult.
- Keep indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period each day.

Further information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

and

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

In the meantime, you will be receiving further information directly from Virgin Care regarding the COVID-19 vaccinations which are due to commence after half term.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Hutchinson

Principal