



3 January 2022

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Students and Parent/Carers

On behalf of everyone at Ivybridge Community College, happy New Year to you and your family and I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break.

This email is a reminder of the planned staggered return arrangements for this week and provides the updated Government guidance issued to schools on Sunday, 2 January 2022.

This **latest Government guidance** doesn't alter our plans for a staggered return to College to facilitate on-site lateral flow tests. However, there are some important changes that you need to be aware of:

- Students and staff are now required to conduct lateral flow tests before return to College even if they have tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days (so long as they have completed their isolation period).
- From Sunday, 2 January 2022, the Government is strongly advising all staff and children to wear a face covering in classrooms (unless exempt), as well as in indoor communal areas and corridors. This is a temporary change to the pre-Christmas guidance and will be in place until Wednesday, 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.
- Since Wednesday, 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test and return to your education setting from day 8.
- People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take a lateral flow test every day for 7 days and continue to attend College as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Therefore, all students at Ivybridge Community College are required to:

- **Return to College as per the staggered return timetable** which was shared with all students and parent/carers at the end of the term. On their first day of return to face to face learning students will attend their onsite lateral flow test appointment, even if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days (as long as they have completed their isolation period).
- **Face Coverings are to be worn by all staff and students in classrooms**, as well as in indoor communal areas including corridors and study spaces for Sixth Form. This will be reviewed at the Government evaluation point of 26 January.

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- Identified close contacts of a positive case can continue to attend College as long as daily lateral flow tests are carried out at home and remain negative, and the person has no symptoms.
- Staff and students who are positive for COVID-19 may end their isolation earlier than the anticipated 10 days and return to College from day 8, but only if they receive two negative test results on day 6 and day 7.
- Extra-curricular enrichment, fixtures and trips will continue as planned.
- Vocational examinations in January will continue as planned.
- Families and staff should continue to test twice weekly and upload results to the NHS Test and Trace service. The College will continue to distribute lateral flow home testing kits until advised otherwise by the Government.

A reminder of the staggered return arrangements

Staggered return week commencing Tuesday, 4 January 2022

Date	Year Group returning to College for COVID-19 testing	Year Groups having face to face lessons on-site	Year Groups having Remote Learning from home
Tuesday, 4 January	11, 13	11, 13,	7, 8, 9, 10, 12
Wednesday, 5 January	7, 12	7, 11, 12, 13	8, 9, 10
Thursday, 6 January	8, 10	7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13	9
Friday, 7 January	9	All Year Groups back to College	None

Finally, a reminder that throughout the staggered start, students at home are expected to be logging in to their live lessons as planned via MS Teams, in line with their usual timetable starting with registration at 8.55am each day. Please refer to the recorded parent briefing and student Assembly on the website if you require further information or support.

We look forward to welcoming all staff and students back to College and would like to thank you in advance for your ongoing support and understanding as we continue to navigate all control measures put in place to reduce the prevalence of COVID-19 within our College community.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal