



19th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

IMPORTANT: COVID-19 SELF-ISOLATION CHANGES AS OF SEPT 2021

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

As Covid-19 restrictions are easing, I share with you the new plans in place at Plymouth High to ensure a smooth transition back into school life after the 6-week holiday.

RETURN TO OUR NORMAL

My team and I have been overwhelmed by the patience and support from our pupils, parents and carers over these past 18 months. We know and understand the varying difficulties our school community has endured in the face of this pandemic.

On this note, I am cautiously happy to say that we are set to return our school environment back to the 'normal' we knew before March 2020. This includes many changes to the average school day such as;

Face coverings - Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas. Though please note face coverings are recommended on public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

Track & Trace - After over a year of implementing and deferring to our Track & Trace policy, under the testing requirements as set out by the Department for Education (DfE), we will no longer be using this. All positive cases must be reported to the NHS via their app in the first instance, and then to the school office in the second instance.

Self-isolation - Close contacts of a positive case no longer need to self-isolate by school, they can continue to come to school but may be recommended to take a PCR test by NHS Test & Trace.

The school dining facilities will reopen with our refreshed menu and additional serving spaces. The one way system will be removed as will bubbles and COVID zoning. All clubs will be able to resume and we will be able to have visitors back on site. School should look and feel like the normal we experienced before March 2020.

However, to control a Covid-19 free environment and to help reduce the spread we will continue to;

1. Encourage and ensure good hand hygiene across our school community.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.

IN CASE OF SYMPTOMS/POSITIVE RESULT

Covid-19 is of course still present, and testing is still happening, you should not send your child to school if they display any of the original symptoms or if they test positive. **READ MORE: [DfE guidance for households with possible or confirmed Covid-19](#)**

CONTINUED LATERAL FLOW TESTING (LFT)

All students will be able to access two LFTs on site before returning to class next year. Testing will start from **Tuesday 31st August** for the first test **with** the second test following 3-5 days after. If you would like your child to take an LFT please complete the consent form below, or if you have already provided consent in March, **confirm your interest via the test registration form below**. There is no need to complete the consent form again if you have already done so in March.

Alternatively, if you would prefer your child to use a home test kit prior to their return to school in September, please ensure that your child takes home sufficient test kits before the end of term. Test kits are freely available in school.

CONSENT

While testing is voluntary, it is important that as many students as possible take part in the Covid-testing program, either on site or at home, to minimise the chances of an outbreak in our school community.

My child is a new student in Y7 or Y12 do I need to fill in a consent form?

Yes, all new students joining us at Plymouth High will need to have consent from their parent/carer via the below form before LFT can be administered on school site. COMPLETE CONSENT FORM [here](#)

My child is a returning student in Y8-Y11 or Y13 and I already provided consent last term, do I still need to fill in a consent form?

Yes, although we can use the consent previously provided we do need you to confirm if your child will attend the school for an LFT. This will ensure we are staffing the testing sites accordingly. If you do not confirm a test for your child we will not allocate a test time and assume you are conducting your test with a home test kit or not consenting to a test. COMPLETE CONSENT FORM [here](#)

My child is a returning student in Y8-Y11 or Y13, I didn't consent last term but would like to now, which consent form do I fill in?

Please fill in this form; COMPLETE CONSENT FORM [here](#)

I do not consent and would prefer my child to do the LFT at home before school, what do I need to do?

Of course, testing on site is voluntary, if you would prefer to use home-testing kits these are available from the school, please ask your child to collect a kit from school, or if your child is due to start with us in September, please come into school to collect a kit.

Please be aware that our school office is closed from 12.30 on Friday 23rd July.

During September students are expected to test twice weekly using LFTs and report results through the Covid-19 test site. Further guidance is due from the Government on expectations after September and will be sent out when available..

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING FOR A TEST OR PROVIDING
CONSENT IS FRIDAY 30TH JULY**

Please note that these are all subject to change and should we experience a local outbreak, risk assessments and further communications will be shared.

Thank you again for your ongoing support when it comes to all things Covid-19 related – I, my team and our school community are sincerely grateful.

Very best wishes



**Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.**