



15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Covid control measures and arrangements for the start of term September 2021

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Covid control measures that will be in place in September and to provide further information about our Covid mass testing programme for September, together with the implications of this for the start of term.

Covid control measures

In line with the government's relaxation of restrictions from 19 July 2021, the Covid control measures we currently have in place will change for the start of next academic year. The full risk assessment is available on our website [here](#). The key changes are as follows:

- Face coverings will no longer be required to be used in classrooms or corridors. Students and staff can choose to wear them in communal areas;
- Students will no longer be in year group bubbles;
- The requirement for staff to social distance from students will no longer be in place (with the exception of in the Covid testing centre);
- Responsibility for contact tracing will pass from the school to NHS Test & Trace;
- Close contacts of any positive cases within the school community will no longer be required to isolate. Close contacts will be identified by NHS Test & Trace and will be advised to take a PCR test;
- Staggered starts and ends to the school day will cease.

The key measures that will remain in place are as follows:

- Hand hygiene – regular sanitisation/ washing of hands throughout the day;
- Ventilation – keeping windows and doors open where possible, whilst maintaining a comfortable temperature;
- Enhanced cleaning during the school day;
- Cleaning of tables/ workspaces at the end of each lesson (to be reviewed at the end of September);
- Twice home weekly testing of staff and students (to be reviewed at the end of September);
- Students/staff displaying symptoms not to come into school until a PCR test is taken and results are known.

DfE guidance is that home testing will be paused over the Summer holidays, however we have plenty of tests available in school - any student who would like additional tests to continue testing over the holidays should request them from their tutor. Tests are also available at local testing centres, details of which are available [here](#).

Mass testing

As you may already be aware, the latest DfE guidance is that all students should be tested twice on their return to school in September. Similar to the process in March, we will be inviting

students in for their first test the day before they return to school and the second test will be carried out in school. This will result in a staggered restart to the term in September as follows:

Year Group	Date of first test	Date of return to school*	Date of second test
7	02/09 – pm	03/09	07/09
8	06/09 - am	07/09	09/09
9	06/09 – pm	07/09	09/09
10	03/09 – pm	06/09	08/09
11	03/09 - am	06/09	07/09

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

If you would like your child to be tested in school, please complete the consent form available [here](#) by **Wednesday 25 August 2021**. We will be unable to accept consent provided after this date. Please note that we are asking for a new consent for this round of testing to ensure that your contact information is up to date and to provide an opportunity for those who did not previously consent to participate in the programme. **We will require you to complete this consent form even if you provided consent previously.**

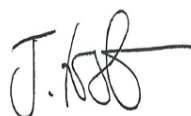
We cannot insist that students are tested in school before they return to school, however please note that these students should return to school as indicated above*.

The tests to be used in the in-school testing have changed from 'Innovo' to 'Orient Gene'. The principal difference is that students undertaking a test will be asked to perform a double nasal swab instead of a nasal and throat swab. Innovo tests will be available for those students who cannot for any reason carry out a nasal swab. There has also been a change to the system of recording results, which will mean that results will only be communicated to parents at the end of a testing session. Any positive results will be communicated to parents by phone as soon as the result is received.

Our risk assessment relating to the mass testing is available on our website [here](#). Please note that students attending the testing centre must wear a mask and must respect social distancing from staff and other students during the testing process.

Should you have any questions or require any further information before providing consent for your child to be tested, please do not hesitate to contact me via meroffice@maidenerleghtrust.org. Exact timings for the first tests will be communicated as soon as possible, students will be invited in on a tutor group basis.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Foster
Business Manager