

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,



**RE: Updated COVID Contingency Measures from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

This morning, all schools received an email from the Department of Education outlining several contingency measures and updated guidance to be implemented upon our return on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Outlined below is the most up to date information for you and your family regarding COVID procedures and contingency measures in schools:

- As you are aware, all secondary school students should undertake one on-site test on return in January. This will help boost testing participation and reduce transmission after a period of social mixing during the holidays. To support the facilitation of this, there will be a staggered return to school for students. Please see overleaf the scheduled day and start time for your child.
- Students should be strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home and to report all results to NHS Test and Trace and to their setting. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.
- From today, Sunday 2 January, it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults & secondary pupils in communal areas of all settings. The advice on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.
- Pupils must also wear a face-covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.
- 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 LFD 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.
- 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 an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- Every child and young person aged 12 and over is now eligible to receive the vaccine. Parents can book an appointment via the NHS website or attend one of the walk in vaccination centres.
- Continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene by ensuring pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Respiratory hygiene, the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach, continues to be very important.

/continue

Acting Headteacher: **Mrs C Handy-Rivett, BA (Hons), MA**

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN  
Telephone: **0121 561 6881** • Fax: 0121 561 6882 • Email: [contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk)

**Information on students staggered return to school:**

**Tuesday 4th January – Years 8, 10 and 11 only**

Year 11 arrival: 8:30 am

Year 10 arrival: 10:15 am

Year 8 arrival: 10:40 am

This cohort of students will also have their flu vaccination on this day, once in school, if they have consent.

**Wednesday 5th January – all Year Groups Years**

Years 8, 10 & 11 arrival: 8:30 am

Year 7 arrival: 8:30 am

Year 9 arrival: 10:15 am

This cohort of students will have their flu vaccination on Thursday 6th January 2022 in the afternoon, if they have consent.

To provide your consent for your child to be tested in school, please click this link:

<https://forms.gle/wUBgundrNkVLvFuv6>

**NB:** New government guidance outlines: even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing on-site or at home once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.

If you have any questions or need to report a positive case in the next two days, please contact

[covid@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:covid@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk).

Once we return to school, any COVID positive results should be reported as normal through our attendance officer.

Thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Handy-Rivett  
**Acting Headteacher**