



1st March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister last week, schools and colleges have now been provided with an updated summary of expectations for the management of COVID-19. The key points relevant to students and parents/carers are set out below:

- As from 21st February, there is now no longer an expectation that students must take part in twice weekly COVID testing using the Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) – we will therefore be halting the TestRegister reminders to test, although you will still be able to log test results until the end of this month.
- Students, and visitors to the college, will not be required to wear a face covering within the buildings. The Local Authority have asked that, due to the current high infection rates, students continue to wear face coverings on school transport. However, this is a matter of personal choice and the bus companies will respect any students' wish not to wear a face covering.
- With effect from 24th February, individuals who are symptomatic for COVID-19 are not legally required to isolate. The wording in the guidance has changed from MUST (meaning legally binding) to SHOULD (meaning the advice should be followed unless there is good reason not to). Anyone who has the three main symptoms of:
 - New continuous cough
 - High temperature
 - A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

should follow the guidance in the [COVID-19: People with COVID-19 and their contacts](#) and book a PCR test. The linked document above also sets out some other significant COVID symptoms that might be more prevalent in children.

- Students and staff are therefore encouraged to continue to isolate for 5 days prior to returning to college. We hope that parents or carers agree that students with key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend college, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on sending a COVID-19 infectious student to college then the Department of Education have given headteachers the authority to refuse that student entrance into the college. We will, of course, ensure that work is provided for any child who is well enough to study but not well enough to attend college.
- Routine contact tracing has ended, and contacts of positive cases will not be required to isolate.
- Children and young people previously considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) should attend college and follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population.

- Trips and educational visits will be encouraged to resume subject to the usual risk assessment processes.

From 24th March, all absence relating to COVID-19 will cease to be coded with the use of an X code, and absence will be coded as general absence from college due to sickness.

Despite the easing of restrictions, COVID-19 has not disappeared. The infection rates in Cambridgeshire are still more than the national rate and this is likely to increase with the reduction in testing. The Local Authority and the Public Health teams for the region will maintain a high degree of vigilance and they do have the powers to reintroduce face coverings and twice weekly testing should the need arise.

Many of you will have test kits at home from stock already issued and we have some test kits available to those who would like to test. We will continue to make these available until the Easter holiday or up to the point that our stock is depleted. Should you wish to continue testing then please ask your child to collect a test kit from the Franklin House office. For those students who are unwell and would like to test parents can pick up a kit from reception.

We will still follow the guidance in place to reduce the risk to others and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Ensuring good hygiene practices are followed
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health advice on testing and managing cases should any restrictions need to be reintroduced.

We are expecting further guidance from the government on or around 1st April and we will share a summary of this with you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal