

29th November 2021

Good afternoon,

New Information on new measures in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while we gather more information. The DfE will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings for staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD).

Note: If a person has had a positive PCR test within the last 90 days, then the LFD and PCR test may remain positive even if the person is not infectious, therefore it is recommended that a person should not restart asymptomatic testing unless they have new symptoms. The person should start testing again at the end of 90 days after the date of their positive test.

Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place.

Any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the **Omicron variant** will be contacted by **Track and Trace** and asked to isolate for 10 days.

Vaccination

All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccine, please visit: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Kind regards

Witchford Village College