

Email from Matthew Bartlett, Head Master

Thursday, 9th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Can I thank you for your support of your children and indeed the College as we continue to all do our very best to keep our community safe and well at a time when nationally there is a spike in cases. I do also appreciate the time taken by parents to get in touch with me to offer support and thanks.

We have been in touch this week with public health to seek clarification on a couple of points and I wanted to share this information with you as soon as possible. The guidance has become more complicated and hope this information will be of help.

- **If your child or anyone in your household has the symptoms of covid**, they should self-isolate and all members of the household should get a PCR test at the same time. The young person with symptoms should not attend school if they return a positive PCR test. **Siblings should also not attend school** until they receive a negative PCR test result.
- Given that a **positive lateral flow test** leads to a PCR test, it would seem sensible for siblings within a household where someone returns a positive lateral flow (regardless of their own lateral flow status) to also take a PCR test and not return to school until their PCR results are received
- We asked for **clarification of sustained and close contact** and were told this is ‘those particularly close to the case such as girlfriend/boyfriend, if there has been a sleepover, anyone who has shared a room/tent, siblings’. Whilst this is clear, it is more relaxed than last year. I would always urge caution. If in doubt, please get a PCR test for your child and keep them off school whilst awaiting the result

I have also attached a recent letter from GGC Public Health which has useful links to follow. Please be aware that there is different guidance for the under 5's and do contact Mrs Brown if you have any concerns in respect of a Kindergarten pupil.

Our young people have really settled back in to school well and as ever impress with their eagerness to study and to engage with all aspects of College life. It is understandably tricky for them to have to follow different guidance in school to what they might see outside the school gates. However, can you please continue to encourage them to socially distance, sanitise and wear masks as advised? Sleepovers are best avoided at this time as they can often lead to transmission of the virus. We are doing all we can to keep children safe in school and are very aware that this is a difficult time for young people and families.

Thank you also for keeping us updated on your child if they test positive or suspect they may have covid, as this helps us keep everyone safe. The leadership team is constantly reviewing our processes and procedures. Can I just remind everyone to:

- Update us as soon as results of a PCR test are known as this means we can ensure no child who might be infectious has returned to school. You can email LAlvarez@staloysius.org, let the year office or Junior School know or contact my PA MHarper@staloysius.org
- Provide a proof of negative result, for which a screen shot is fine
- Note that isolation is determined by the NHS but in almost all cases this is 10 full days ie: returning on day 11. Isolation is usually from the earlier of the onset of symptoms or the date of the PCR test, but please check



I hope this is helpful, but as always do contact me if you have any questions or concerns

Kindest regards

Matthew Bartlett

Matthew D. Bartlett HEAD MASTER

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Dear Parent/Carer

There has been a reported case of COVID in a person linked to the school. You don't need to do anything unless you are contacted by Test and Protect as a close contact.

1. Current arrangements

- Whole classes are no longer asked to self-isolate if someone in the class tests positive for COVID-19.
- Your child will only be identified as a contact if they have had **prolonged** close contact with the case – e.g. same household, overnight stays.
- There will be no requirement for you or your child to self-isolate **unless you are contacted by Test and Protect**.
- All close contacts of the case **who need to take specific actions** will be identified, contacted and advised by Test and Protect to follow the latest guidance on self-isolation and testing which was updated from August 9th 2021 for:-
 - adults who are fully vaccinated, who do not have symptoms and who have not tested positive; and
 - children and young people aged under 18 who do not have symptoms and who have not tested positive.

Further information on the latest self-isolation requirements can be found on the NHS Inform website at: www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19 or [Translations \(nhsinform.scot\)](http://Translations (nhsinform.scot)) for accessible, easy read formats or other languages.

2. Regular testing

- Regular testing even when you don't have symptoms can help keep you and your school community safe.
- If your child is at secondary school, they can access free LFD tests from the school, to allow them to test twice-weekly at home as long as they have no symptoms. Please contact the school directly to ask about this if your child is having problems accessing tests.
- Please encourage your child to test twice-weekly, and to record all positive, negative or void results on the online reporting portal at: www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19-report-your-test-result.
- In addition, you and the rest of your family, including primary school-aged children, can access free test kits through the Universally Accessible Testing programme, which is available to everyone in Scotland. Free at-home LFD test kits are available for collection from COVID test centres or pharmacies, or delivery by ordering online. www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested/pages/no-covid-symptoms.

3. Book a test if you or your child develop symptoms

- Please be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19. If your child develops any symptoms of COVID-19 they must not attend school. They should stay at home, self-isolate and get tested for COVID-19. Find out more on [NHS Inform](#).
- All other household members of your child (including yourself) must also stay at home and follow the latest guidance, which can be found on [NHS Inform](#). In the event of a positive result, Test and Protect will contact you to provide tailored advice on what to do.
- Book a test at [NHS Inform](#) for your nearest COVID-19 test site. There are drive-through, walk-through, and mobile testing units across Scotland which are open from 8-am until 8pm, 7 days a week. A full list of sites can be found at [Gov.Scot](#). Or you can order a home PCR test kit [online](#), or by calling 119. A test will then be delivered to your home. To return you can either drop the test at your nearest priority post box, or if you are unable to go out, you can also call 119 to book a courier collection from your home.

4. How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. Do:

- Get vaccinated if you haven't already done so and are eligible. Vaccination is our best defence against COVID-19 causing anyone to become seriously unwell. If anyone who is eligible in your family or home have not yet been vaccinated, then they should arrange vaccination as soon as possible. This could also help you avoid having to self-isolate in the future. Information on how to arrange a vaccination can be found on [NHS inform](#).
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues straight in the bin and wash your hands.
- Open windows/doors regularly to ventilate your home
- Be vigilant for COVID symptoms and self-isolate when you have COVID symptoms or have been advised to by Test and Protect.

Further Information

For general Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions and information:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coronavirus-faq?age=0> and

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Yours sincerely



Linda de Caestecker

Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde