



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

✉ Ashdown Close, Canford Heath, Poole, BH17 8RE

☎ 01202 604222

✉ office@magna-aspirations.org

🌐 www.magna-aspirations.org

🐦 @MagnaAcademy

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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Covid-19 update

I am writing to inform you about updated information we have received from the Department for Education, regarding close contacts of those testing positive for COVID-19. As has already been the case, NHS Track and Trace will continue to make contact directly with anyone they deem to be a close contact of a positive case.

However, there is a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 that has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test at home, every day for 7 days, instead of self-isolating. This has been introduced, as daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19. This will help to protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep students in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students should take an LFD test each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#). If our students test negative, they can continue to attend the academy unless they have developed new symptoms. Outside of the academy, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12th December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If our students test positive, they should self-isolate and undertake a [PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR test is also positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days and inform the academy at the earliest opportunity. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate, but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily test and only need to isolate if it is positive or they start to display new symptoms. All staff and students will have access to a box of LFD tests from the academy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind families that the main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or your child have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild, you should undertake a PCR test as soon as possible and should also stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate), until you get the test result – only leave your home to have the actual test itself.

If your child is isolating due to COVID-19 and is well enough, they should complete work on Google Classroom following their normal academy timetable. Please note that if work is not set as an assignment and does not appear on your child's home page, please ensure that they check 'the stream' for new material that has been uploaded. They will be able to communicate with their teacher via 'the stream' or academy email for support and guidance.

Finally, it is important for all students (and our staff) to continue with regular twice weekly testing at home. This will continue to be the expectation when we return in January.

Yours sincerely



Ms N Ullah
Principal