



COVID-19 UPDATE 17

29th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

YEAR 10 BUBBLE CLOSURE

Since the school re-opened to all students on 8th March 2021, we have been very fortunate not to have any confirmed cases or bubble closures. I would like to thank students and staff for all that they have done to maintain bi-weekly lateral flow testing at home and for observing social distancing in school. We have kept our students in year group bubbles to prevent the spread of the virus across different year groups as much as possible.

However, despite all the precautions and with the rising number of cases, after the end of the school day yesterday, we were made aware of a positive case in Year 10. We immediately undertook a contact tracing exercise and as a result, a number of students have been instructed to self-isolate from today. Unfortunately, during today we have been made aware of a number of additional positive cases in the same year group.

Therefore, as a precaution and following discussions, including a risk assessment, with Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT), we will be closing the Year 10 bubble (year group) from 3.25pm today, Tuesday 29th June 2021. If your child is in Year 10, they are being asked to self-isolate for a period of 10 days, until Friday 9th July 2021. We will continue to monitor the situation with PHE and the LORT and unless you hear otherwise, the earliest date on which they may return to school is Monday 12th July 2021. Please note, unless your child in Year 10 develops symptoms and tests positive for COVID, the rest of your household is not required to self-isolate.

The latest guidance from Public Health England and the NHS in relation to testing and self-isolating is added as an appendix to this letter.

Year 10 will receive live lessons, including Tutor Time and assemblies, as per their timetable, via Microsoft Teams, as they did during the lockdown at the start of the year. The lessons will start five minutes later and finish five minutes earlier than scheduled, to allow for movement time and comfort breaks, etc. Please see the [timings of the school day](#) for details.

Due to the move to remote online learning throughout the period of the bubble closure, those students who were instructed by the school on 28th June 2021 to self-isolate until 6th July, should also return to school on Monday 12th July 2021.

Students in Years 9 and 12

Students in Years 9 and 12 should continue to attend school as normal, including those who have a sibling in Year 10, provided there is not a positive confirmed case within the household, and that they are asymptomatic of COVID.

COVID Testing - Reminder

With the rising number of positive cases of COVID-19 - particularly the Delta variant, government advice remains that students and school staff should continue to conduct lateral flow tests at home on a twice-weekly basis and to report test results via the government's test and trace service. This also applies to

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students who are self-isolating. In the event of a positive test, a PCR test should be booked as soon as possible, and all members of the household should self-isolate until the PCR result is confirmed and, should it be confirmed as positive, for ten days from the date of the initial positive test result. If the PCR test is negative and no other member of the household has tested positive, the household may end its self-isolation and the student (if they are in Year 9 or Year 12) may return to school. As stated above, Year 10 students are required to self-isolate until Friday 9th July 2021.

Reporting Positive Test Results to School

Between now and the end of term (Friday 16th July 2021) please inform school of any positive test results by contacting Mrs S Jennings via the sickness absence line 01386 765588, Option 1, or by email to enquiries@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

Diary Dates Reminder

Friday 9 th July	Speech Day (online event)
Monday 12 th July	Year 10 return to school
Friday 16 th July	TERM ENDS, 3.25pm
Tuesday 10 th August	AS/A Level Results 8am - 11am
	Results Consultation 9am - 2pm
Wednesday 11 th August	A Level Results Consultation 9am - 11am (exceptional circumstances)
Thursday 12 th August	GCSE Results (Year 11) 9am - 11am
	GCSE Results (Year 10) 10.30am-11.30am
	Results Consultation 9am - 2pm
Friday 13 th August	Results Consultation 9am-11am (exceptional circumstances)
Friday 13 th August	Deadline for online subject options for Year 12 entry 3.30pm
Thursday 2 nd September	Induction Day for Years 9 and 12
Friday 3 rd September	Start of term - all students return to school

As ever, I would like to close this latest update by thanking you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



Dr A Evans
Headteacher

APPENDIX: CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH & NHS GUIDANCE

If your child is well at the end of the 10-day period of self-isolation then they can return to their usual activities and attend school as normal.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities, provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10-day self-isolation period.

For more information, please see the guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Getting a PCR test for a close contact of a case

It is now also possible for close contacts to have a PCR test even where they do not have symptoms through [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

Please note: if your child has a negative PCR test result, this does not alter the self-isolation period as a contact. Close contacts should continue to self-isolate for 10 full days, as they could still become infectious and pass the infection onto others. Please make sure you read the full text message from NHS Test and Trace when receiving a negative result. This makes clear that you do not need to self-isolate **unless** 'you've been told to self-isolate because you've been in close contact with someone who tested positive' [Negative test result for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID 19)

Having been identified as a close contact, if your child then develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test - this is the type of test that is normally available and can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The household isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10-day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period. If that is not possible, anyone with symptoms should try and stay as far away as possible from vulnerable members of your household.

For more information, please read PHE's 'Stay at Home' guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- Wash your hands with soap and water often - do this for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards