



Covid-19 Updates 2021/22 - Letter 3

14th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we start the final week of a very successful term, I hope that this update letter finds you and your families well.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of arrangements for the remainder of this week and remind you of the start of term arrangements - assuming, of course, that there are no further changes to government guidelines in the meantime.

End of Term

Christmas lunch is available for all students in Henry's on Wednesday 15th December - price £2.

Our Christmas Concert will be available to view online any time after 4pm on Thursday 16th December. Please see the website.

As detailed previously, term will end at 12.15pm on Friday 17th December. Buses have been arranged and Mrs Thomas has communicated with students regarding the finer details, where necessary. Please note that the normal 564 route will be served by the school minibus.

Testing and Start of Term Arrangements

Please encourage your child to take a lateral flow test twice weekly. Further testing kits will be issued to all students later this week, to ensure that they have an adequate supply of kits to last for the school holidays and to test prior to the start of next term.

As you will be aware from my previous letter, schools have been asked to undertake one on-site lateral flow test for all students, when the new term starts on Tuesday 4th January 2022, and to ensure that in doing this, the number of contacts between students is limited. **Unless government guidance changes (and I will update you if it does), as we did in September, we will be staggering the return of students to school in January as follows:**

- **Tuesday 4th January:** Year 11 students return to school & are being tested
- **Wednesday 5th January:** Years 12 and 13 return to school & are being tested
- **Thursday 6th January:** Year 10 return to school & are being tested
- **Friday 7th January:** Year 9 return to school & are being tested

Students who are not physically in school will receive online teaching via Teams in line with their normal timetable and attendance will be monitored in the normal way. Further information on how to access the school's online resources (including Teams) is available alongside this letter in the Covid-19 Updates area of the school website.

Online Learning & Access to Internet

Please may I remind you to ensure that your child has managed to log in to Teams successfully from home before the end of term. If you do experience any issues, please request support by contacting passwordenquiry@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

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Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Egwin's Middle Schools

As lessons will be online, as we did during the last lockdown, all lessons, including registration at 9am, will run in accordance with the normal timetable, but will run for 50 minutes, to allow comfort breaks and time away from the screen.

Please do not worry if you do not have internet access at home, as we have a limited number of places available in the LRC on the days when some students are scheduled to be learning from home. Please let the relevant Head of Year know if your circumstances require your child to be in school. Students will be based in the LRC, with Learning Supervisors and will be accessing their lessons via Teams online, in the same way as their classmates. Please note that these places are limited due to needing to test all students on site when they return to school.

Reminder: Contact Tracing and Isolation

As a result of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, with effect from 14th December 2021, government guidance in relation to Covid testing has been updated.

As previously, any person who develops symptoms of Covid or who is asymptomatic but tests positive via a lateral flow test should self-isolate and [arrange for a PCR test](#) to be undertaken either by calling 119 or booking it online via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If they are notified of a positive test result by NHS Test and Trace, they must self-isolate for 10 days. The 10 days will be either from the date on which symptoms started, or if asymptomatic, from the date of the PCR test. Symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 - whether Omicron or not - should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating and should report their test results through the [online reporting system](#). If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

Notifying the School of Suspected and/or Positive Cases

Please keep reporting cases into Mrs Jennings (Years 9-11) or Mrs Tranter (Sixth Form) through our attendance lines. Whilst updated government rules that have been in place since August mean the responsibility for test and trace has now moved from schools to the UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England), if we detect an increase in the number of cases, then we liaise with the Local Outbreak Response Team (LORT) for Worcestershire. However, schools are no longer notifying parents of close contacts and children must attend school unless they have symptoms of Covid or a positive lateral flow test until confirmed by a PCR test. If they test positive at that point, your child will be notified of their isolation requirements by the UKHSA's Test & Trace; if they test negative, they can return to school.

As usual, I will provide you with updates as soon as we receive any notification of changes to government or NHS guidance.

In the meantime, I hope that you and your families stay safe and well and would like to take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



**Dr A Evans
Headteacher**