



**West Moors Middle School**

Heathfield Way, West Moors

Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0DA

Telephone: 01202 872474

Email: [office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)

[www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

### **Covid-19 enhanced measures update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following previous communications that explained our enhanced Covid-19 safety measures which were put into place following a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases amongst the student body and staff just before half term. We have continued to review these measures every fortnight. Our case numbers did come down following the half term break, however, we remain in a fast changing position as positive cases are again beginning to rise.

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK, on contact tracing and isolation, travel and quarantine, face coverings and vaccination of under 18 year olds. Further to this, the Department for Education has announced the measures as they apply to education and therefore I thought I would take this opportunity to set out again the practises that we will keep until the end of this term. These measures remain critical in our attempt to minimise the spread of Covid-19, and we would be grateful for your support in this matter.

#### **Face coverings:**

-We are asking all children in KS3 (unless medically exempt), to wear face coverings as soon as they arrive on school site and during all transition points of the day. Children in KS3 do not have to wear their face coverings in classroom, when eating or drinking or when outside at lunch and break time. During some in class activities, for example when children are needing to move around and work in groups as they would during a science experiment, they may be asked to wear a mask during this activity.

-Face coverings must also be worn by all children on school transport.

#### **LFD testing for children in KS3:**

Please ensure that your child is Lateral Flow Testing at least twice a week. Your child can get additional tests from the school, or you can order them as a household online (<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>);

We have increased access to LFDs so that daily testing can take place where case rates remain particularly high. Where there are high numbers of positive cases in your child's year group or tutor group, we will ask you to please ensure that your child is testing everyday. More kits can be collected. When testing, please allow 30 minutes to ensure that your child only comes into school if the test gave a negative result.

**Extending daily LFD testing** for close or household contacts (identified by NHS Test and Trace) while awaiting PCR results. So, if your child is identified as a close contact through NHS Test and Trace they will be asked to test with LFT for 5 days (or up to 7 days if the 5th day falls at a weekend). Close contacts identified through NHS Test and Trace are still asked to undertake a PCR test.



Headteacher: **Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH**  
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs D East BSc (Hons) PGCE SENDCo**



In order to keep some extra-curricular activities going, especially where a higher risk activity such as singing indoors is taking place, we will be asking KS3 students involved in these activities to LFD test on the day of their activity.

### **Reinforcing social distancing measures:**

- All assemblies will continue to be virtual.
- To avoid busy changing rooms, please continue to send your child into school in PE kit on Core PE days.

### **Additional measures:**

- Ventilation in school will be maximised and we will use the new CO2 monitors as an indicator of where ventilation needs to be increased. Children may wish to wear a plain black base layer under their school uniform to keep warm.
- All students will be proactively encouraged to hand sanitise throughout the day. It would be helpful if you could check that your child has enough sanitiser in their bag.
- Staff are sanitising classrooms between uses, as we did last year.
- Staff may choose to wear a face covering when in classrooms – children are also welcome to do so;
- Daytime enhanced cleaning of the school site will be maintained, particularly common touch points such as doors and banister rails.

We are trying to continue our programme of extra-curricular activities and have reviewed activities this morning. These will be kept under review and will continue as long as it is assessed as safe to do so.

If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 at any time, please ensure that they isolate and book a test for them, even if they have already taken a test. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

Further guidance on COVID-19 and what you need to do can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

### **Covid-19 Vaccination for 12-15 year olds.**

As you are aware, the Schools Immunisation Service came into school to give Covid-19 vaccinations to children aged between 12 -15, whose parents and carers gave written informed consent, last Friday 26th November 2021.

If you chose not to vaccinate your child at that point, but would now like to him/ her to be vaccinated, you can book Covid vaccination appointments for your child via the government website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-1st-or-2nd-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>.

And finally, we have been told by the Department for Education that all students in KS3 will need to LFD test onsite before a return to school in January 2022. I will be in touch as soon as I have further information on how this will be run.

I hope that this information is helpful and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, on behalf of my staff team, we thank you all for your continued support in helping to keep our school as safe a place as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Smith', is written on a light beige rectangular background.

Headteacher