



29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**COVID Update – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. There are many unknowns about this new variant, however it does appear that Omicron spreads very rapidly, and can be spread between people who are double vaccinated.

***There is also a requirement for all close contacts of those who test positive - with a suspected case of Omicron - to self-isolate for ten days, regardless of your vaccination status.***

Therefore, I have reviewed the updated DfE Guidance – released late, last night. [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101414/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance).

Public Health have also advised that we, along with many other schools, should remain in Amber measures until the end of this term. This is a sensible precaution, especially in light of this weekend's announcement from the Government.

***In addition to our enhanced cleaning, hand washing and ventilation, the following additional measures will continue until the end of term:***

- **Face Coverings** - Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff and visitors, unless they are exempt.
- **Social distancing** – Please maintain social distancing, to avoid catching and spreading Coronavirus.
- **Testing** – Adults in a household where children regularly attend educational settings are advised to test twice-weekly using lateral flow tests.
- **Contact Tracing and isolation** - The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.
- **Vaccination** – Please continue to take up the offer of the vaccine, including the boosters. Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people and adults, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on. To book a vaccination, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

- **Travel Lists** - Individuals arriving in England from red list countries must follow the red list rules. [Red list of countries and territories - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/red-list-of-countries-and-territories) **If you are planning to travel to/from one of these countries, then please inform the school office.**
- **Assemblies** – These will remain on line until the end of term.
- **Christmas** –We will send out more details, later in the week, with information regarding any changes that may need to be made in order to keep everyone within our school community safe.

These measures are temporary and precautionary, and we will review them in time for our return to school in January 2022!

Thank you as always, for your support in helping us to reduce potential transmission.

With my very best wishes,

*Mrs Wilkins*  
Headteacher



**Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Tolerance, Responsibility, Excellence**

*Wellesley Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and expects all staff to share this commitment.*