



Date: Sunday 28th November 2021

COVID Update: Information regarding requirements of all Education settings on new measures in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister [announced](#) new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while they gather more information, the government will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

Today all educational settings have received the following instruction from the Department for Education:

- **Face coverings in school:** Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.
- **Face coverings on transport:** Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport (unless they are exempt).
- **Testing:** All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) 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:** All eligible staff and students aged 12 and over are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including 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: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

Action for students and staff at Oldbury Wells School commencing Monday 29th November.

- The school will continue to operate its safe working practices ensuring good hygiene, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimens, ensuring good ventilation and taking advice from public health.
- All students and staff should arrive to school on Monday 29th November with a face covering, any students arriving without a covering will be supplied with a face covering on arrival.

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CEO: Mrs Sarah Godden
T: 01746 760509
c/o: Oldbury Wells School

Headteacher: Mr Lee Tristham
Oldbury Wells, Bridgnorth
Shropshire, WV16 5JD
01746 765454
school@oldburywells.com



- Face coverings will be required to be worn (unless except) at all times when inside the school building unless in the main eating areas or inside classrooms or dedicated work spaces. Should an individual choose to wear their face covering within lessons this will obviously be supported.
- Between lessons while on transit inside the school building students and staff will be required to wear a face covering.
- During Break and lunch times, students/staff will be required to wear their face coverings when queuing for food and only remove them when seated to eat. Face coverings should be worn when vacating these areas.
- Students using school transport will be asked to wear a face covering (unless exempt) on the journey to and from school, this remains common practice for many students and so there is little change.
- Testing. A reminder that all staff and students are provided with home testing kits, these should be used on a Sunday and Thursday evening with any positive results immediately notified to school.
- Visitors into school. All parents are asked only to attend school if an appointment has been made. On arrival visitors will be asked to wear a face covering throughout their visit.

We will obviously keep you updated with any further guidance given to schools over the coming days and thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Lee Tristham
Headteacher