

HaileyburyTurnford

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5th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following with you:

As you will be aware, there has been an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 recently, many of these in our early year and education settings. The Government and Public Health England have provided guidance to early year settings and schools on what they need to do when they are notified of a positive case at their setting.

There is a dedicated team, including infection prevention control (IPC) nurses, who support schools to deal with any positive case(s). Close contacts of a positive case, including students and staff, must self-isolate at home for 10 days. This is required by law and we have no ability to change this locally. The purpose of this is to reduce the risk of transmission and to protect the school and wider community. On some occasions, due to the nature of school buildings and mixed classes across year groups, this can mean that whole classes and year groups must self-isolate. We have fed into national agencies and the Department for Education that we need a national system for the new school year that minimises disruption to your child's education as much as possible

We know that being in nursery or school is best for children's development and wellbeing and we are working hard to keep the number of children self-isolating at home and learning remotely to a minimum. Please be patient with your school when they are asking for your support on self-isolation as they are simply following the mandatory national Government guidance set out for them and the advice of the infection control support team.

You can help us to protect your school community by following the Government guidance on hands, face, space and fresh air. **Parents, carers and children in Year 7 and above should be taking regular rapid tests at home and book a confirmatory PCR test if they test positive.** If children are generally unwell, they should be kept at home just in case and if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (**a new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, a temperature**) you must book a PCR test at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.

Lateral Flow Device tests to use at home for family members are available at most pharmacies. Students will continue to be provided with lateral flow device tests from school until the end of the academic year to enable them to test twice weekly.



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