

Dear Parents / Carers

Can I please remind you of the procedures we follow in the case of a suspected positive case at RHSC. Usually, the first indication of a positive test is a parent reporting their child has tested positive on the LFT that we have distributed. We then ask them to book and carry out a confirmatory PCR test. Whilst waiting for the PCR test result we have to assume it will be positive, so we identify all close contacts and send them home to isolate, and to do a PCR test themselves.

If the original pupil's PCR test is negative, everyone can return to school. If the PCR test confirms a positive result, all close contacts must isolate for 10 days from being informed. If any of the close contacts that were identified develops symptom and returns a positive PCR test, they must restart their 10 days isolation period.

What is a close contact?

A close contact is anyone who has been within 2metres for 15 minutes, or 1metre for 1 minute. **This must have happened in the 2 days before the positive LFT.** Please understand that we will identify the close contacts and notify parents of this. However, if we do not contact you and your child feels certain they have been a close contact within the last 48 hours, please do contact us to check.

Face coverings

Please be aware that we have decided to maintain the current stance regarding the wearing of face coverings at RHSC until the end of term. Although we are as keen as anyone to end having to compulsorily wear them, the current high infection rate nationally, and the infectious nature of the Delta variant mean that we feel it would be an error to change tack now. So, in summary -

- Pupils must wear face coverings when on a school bus.
- Pupils must wear face coverings when in indoor communal areas at school. This, largely, means corridors between lessons.
- Pupils can take them off once sat in their seat in the classroom.
- Any teacher who considers themselves vulnerable can request pupils remain in face coverings whilst in their lesson.

Please also be aware that it is possible that the government asks schools to mass test their pupils using Lateral Flow Tests upon their return in September. If this does turn out to be the case we will write to you over the summer with arrangements.

Can I ask that you remind your children of the importance of personal distancing and hand hygiene, as it appears a level of complacency has set in at times. At school we will continue to carry out the measures we have in place to discourage infection.

Thank you for your support.

Tim Gibbs

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