

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

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Dear Parent

COVID-19 – Additional Control Measures

As I have outlined in previous letters, we are continuing to manage the impact of COVID-19 in school and to work closely with the local Public Health team to ensure that our response is appropriate and effective. In light of increasing numbers of positive cases within the school community over recent days, we will be introducing some further control measures:

Face Coverings

From Friday 1 October, all students and staff will be required to wear a face covering at all times in school whilst indoors (unless exempt). Please ensure that your child brings a face covering to school daily. If he/she forgets, limited supplies are available in the school office. This requirement will be reviewed further during week commencing 11 October.

Asymptomatic PCR Testing

An important part of reducing transmission of COVID-19 is through identifying asymptomatic cases. Asymptomatic polymerase chain reaction tests (PCR) (which are different to the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests being taken at home) enable the identification of cases where the individual has no symptoms.

Next week, Public Health England and the local Public Health team (with the full support of the school) will be on the school campus to complete Asymptomatic PCR testing of students and staff. PCR testing is more sensitive than LFD testing and, therefore, more likely to detect cases with no symptoms. The method of testing (taking a swab of the inside of the nose and the back of the throat, using a long cotton bud) is the same as LFD testing but the swabs are sent to a lab for processing to get results. Results typically take up to 24 hours to return. Students will be asked to self-swab but help will be on hand if they need it. Testing is voluntary and we will only test those students who have consent from parents (or if aged 16 or over consent themselves). I would appeal for your full support in the testing programme so that we can collectively work to minimise any further disruption to your child's education and protect all members of the school community.

In order to proceed, we require your consent for your child to participate in this PCR testing programme (for students aged 11-15) or student consent if they are aged 16 or over. We ask that you **return your consent as soon as possible (and no later than Sunday 3 October 2021) using the following method depending on the age of your child:**

- Parents of students aged 11-15 please return this online consent form
- Students 16 and over will receive an online consent form link via Class Charts





Important: If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, he/she should not participate in this PCR testing programme. If this is the case, please do not submit consent forms to the school.

You will receive notification of your child's PCR result by text message using the mobile telephone number you provide on the consent form. The school will receive an email confirmation of his/her result. Your child does not need to self-isolate whilst waiting to receive the PCR result unless he/she is displaying symptoms.

If your child tests positive, he/she will be required to isolate for 10 days (starting the day after the test was taken) and work will be provided by the school to complete during this period, providing he/she feels well enough to complete it.

For more information on how your child's data will be shared as part of this testing process, please refer to the Privacy Notice and Data Protection FAQs on the the [Coronavirus page](#) of the school website.

Further information regarding the arrangements for testing will be shared with you in due course. The [Coronavirus page](#) of the school website will also feature updated information on all testing-related matters. If, however, you have any questions please feel free to email enquiries@formbyhighschool.com.

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms

Please note that the above on-site PCR testing is for asymptomatic cases only. If your child has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, he/she must not attend school, should self-isolate and [seek a PCR test](#) immediately.

Ongoing Control Measures

As well as the ongoing cleaning and hand hygiene requirements in school, we have also decided to suspend any year group assemblies or large scale events until further notice. It is our hope that these will be able to resume as soon as infection rates reduce. To prevent large volumes of students accessing the PE changing rooms at any one time, on days that students have PE lessons they should wear their PE kit and blazer to school. On all other days, they should wear full school uniform. Arrangements regarding PE kit will be reviewed for week beginning Monday 11 October.

In addition to the above, we ask that your child continues with twice weekly home testing using the LFD test kits with which he/she is already familiar until we receive further guidance from the government following their review.

Finally, as we implement these changes which place further demands on all members of the school community, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all our students and their parents for the exceptional support they extend to keeping our school community safe. I am privileged to witness on a daily basis the team spirit and collective responsibility our students display for each other and this is a great source of pride for me and all the staff.

Yours sincerely

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher