



Ysgol Gymunedol Cefn Hengoed Community School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID-19 Update

As we learn more about the new variant, schools continue to work closely with the Local Authority to closely monitor the impact on learners' education and wellbeing. Our main aim is for learners to have face to face learning in schools wherever possible. However, inevitably, we will have to react quickly and make some key decisions at short notice, and we thank you for your understanding with such matters.

Symptoms

With cases rising, no one should attend school if they have any symptoms associated with the coronavirus. They should self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test – <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. The main symptoms include:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste

You should also be aware of other symptoms early on, such as headaches, tiredness and general aches and pains usually associated with the flu.

My child has been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID - can they attend school/childcare?

Yes, your child can still attend school or childcare. However, we now ask that all children aged 5 to 17 years old (as well as vaccinated adults) identified as a close contact of a positive case to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'. Tests should be taken before they arrive at school each day. These individuals do not need to self-isolate unless they have a positive lateral flow test and/or develop symptoms. If they have a positive lateral flow test and develop symptoms, they should self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible. However, if they have a positive lateral flow test without symptoms, they are no longer advised to have a follow-up PCR test to confirm the result, unless they are in a clinically vulnerable group, but will need to self-isolate for 7 days and have a negative lateral flow test result on days 6 and 7.

Someone in my household has coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus.

What should I do?

If someone in your household has coronavirus symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus, you should follow the latest guidance.

All over 18s who are fully vaccinated (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine) and children aged 5 to 17 are now asked to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days if they are identified as a contact



of a positive COVID-19 case. We recommend those undertaking Daily Contact Testing take their test before they arrive at school each day. These individuals do not need to self-isolate unless they have a positive lateral flow test and/or develop symptoms. If they have a positive lateral flow test and develop symptoms, they should self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible. However, if they have a positive lateral flow test without symptoms, they are no longer advised to have a follow-up PCR test to confirm the result, unless they are in a clinically vulnerable group, but will need to self-isolate for 7 days and have a negative lateral flow test result on days 6 and 7.

Unvaccinated adults identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case must isolate for 10 days. They should now take a lateral flow test on day two and day eight instead of a PCR test. Our position on children under 5 years old remains unchanged - they are not required to self-isolate or test as contacts but we advise that they remain at home if they are unwell.

I have previously tested positive for COVID-19. Do I still need to test as a contact?

We do not recommend that people use PCR tests if they have been confirmed positive via a PCR test in the last 90 days. Those aged 5-17 and fully vaccinated adults should still use the LFD tests for 7 days from when a household member has tested positive, even if they have previously had Covid in the last 90 days.

Regular Testing

How often do I need to take a Lateral Flow Device test?

All staff and secondary aged learners are advised to take a LFD test three times a week and report the results.

Where do I report my result?

It's important to record your test result as soon as you can, whether it's positive, negative, or void. You can report your results on gov.uk or by calling 119. It means new outbreaks are identified and we understand how the tests are being used.

We know how disruptive this virus has been for everyone. This year we want to keep your child in school as much as possible, but we also want to keep our communities safe from the effects of COVID-19. We hope that you will be able to play your part by following the advice above.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Bale
Headteacher