

18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on local lockdown guidance

I hope you are well. I am writing to you today with a further update on our arrangements during the coronavirus outbreak following new guidance from the Government on local lockdowns. Please note we are not currently under local lockdown, but I wanted to explain what actions we would take.

As you will know, the Department of Health and local councils are able to introduce ‘lockdown’ restrictions for communities when the number of people who are catching the virus is speeding up. They do this to slow the rate at which the virus is spread.

Now that schools are re-opening the Government have introduced ‘tiers’ or levels of lockdown, and if a school is in an area under lockdown they will have to react accordingly. You can read more on this [on the gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk/government/frameworks/coronavirus/coronavirus-containment-framework) or by searching ‘gov contain framework.’ The levels are below.

<p>Tier 1 Lockdown</p> <p>Schools remain open to all students but with a requirement that face coverings be worn in corridors of secondary schools where social distancing cannot take place.</p>
<p>Tier 2 Lockdown</p> <p>Secondary schools will move to a rota model, combining “on-site provision with remote education”.</p> <p>Secondary schools will continue to allow full-time attendance for vulnerable students and the children of key workers, with all other students subject to a rota. The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools.</p>
<p>Tier 3 Lockdown</p> <p>Secondary schools will allow full-time on-site provision only to vulnerable students, the children of critical workers and selected year groups.</p> <p>All other students will stay at home and be provided with remote education. The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools and colleges.</p>
<p>Tier 4 Lockdown</p> <p>Schools will only allow full-time attendance to vulnerable students and the children of key workers, with all other students staying home and receiving remote education.</p> <p>The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools and colleges.</p>

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As an Oasis Academy we will always be following the requirements set out for tier 1 where students are required to wear a face covering in corridors, not just during a local lockdown. We also have experience of tier 3 and tier 4 following similar arrangements prior to the summer holidays.

Tier 2 guidance – Rota System

In the case of us being asked to follow the requirements for tier 2, we are asked to operate a rota system that means students will be asked to alternate spending two weeks on-site followed by two weeks at home.

[The Government's guidance](#) (which you can read by searching "How schools can plan for tier 2 local restrictions") explains that this should allow time for coronavirus symptoms to present and therefore help us to stop the virus from being passed on.

As you will read the Government advise:

- Schools should ideally operate a rota system that means pupils spend 2 weeks on-site followed by 2 weeks at home (so, 10 days on-site, with a weekend in between, followed by 16 days at home).
- Schools should plan to utilise time over the weekend effectively in order to prepare for a different rota group at the start of the week.
- Rota groups should consist of 'bubbles' that avoid mixing with one another, in line with the full opening guidance
- Different rota groups can use the same classrooms and facilities. Schools should ensure cleaning of frequently touched surfaces takes place in between use by different rota groups, in addition to enhanced cleaning arrangements already in place.
- Vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers should be integrated into rota groups, even if they continue to remain on-site during weeks their rota group is scheduled to be at home

In the case of a change of tiers we will be in contact with you *by text and email*. Should we move to tier 2 and require a rota system, we will try to give as much notice as possible about arrangements for your child.

Below is a simplified guide on actions to take in different instances which I hope you will find useful.

We will of course keep you updated. Thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Knight
Principal

COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents / carers

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
...my child has COVID19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results 	...when child's test comes back negative
...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school immediately about test results • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) even if someone tests negative during those 14 days 	<p>...when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours</p> <p>They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p>
...somebody in my household has COVID19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Household member with symptoms should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results 	...when household member test is negative, and child does not have Covid-19 symptoms*
...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) <i>even if someone tests negative during those 14 day days</i> 	...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days
...NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms* or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) – even if they test negative during those 14 days • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too 	...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days
...we / my child has travelled and has to self-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time 	...when the quarantine period of 14 days has

<p>isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days – even if they test negative during those 14 days 	<p>been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team • Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>
<p>....I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only people with symptoms* need to get a test • People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive 	<p>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p>