



Ilford County High School

15th September 2021

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

In the last few days we have had a marked increase in the number of students reporting positive covid19 test results across the school, with a cluster of cases in Year 7. We want to work together to help reduce the risk of infection in school in order to protect students, staff and their families. Whilst we recognise that covid19 restrictions across the country have changed in recent months, the school environment presents challenges that we need to react to in order to keep everyone as safe as we can.

- We have discussed the increase in reported cases of covid19 with both the London Borough of Redbridge and Public Health England. **We are asking all Year 7 students to undertake an additional covid19 test this evening at home.** We have provided all Year 7 students with an additional set of covid19 LFT so that they can do this. Your child will have these with them when they return from school today. Once the test has been completed, please send us the result using the link below. Please send us the result of the test if it is positive or negative.

<https://forms.office.com/r/XjPisAXFv2>

If your child tests positive to covid19 using one of the LFT tests, they should not return to school but should undertake a PCR test to confirm their test result. If their PCR test returns a negative result, they will be able to return to school. Should the confirmatory PCR test return a positive result, they will need to follow Public Health England guidelines and self-isolate. If your child returns a negative LFT test they can return to school as normal on Thursday morning.

We will be asking all staff and students to take the following precautions in school from tomorrow morning:

- **Staff and students will wear masks or face coverings, inside buildings at all times. This includes students and staff during lesson time.** There are a few members of our school community who are medically exempt from wearing a mask, however I would ask that everyone else complies with this rule and wears their mask. This will help us to keep everyone as safe as we can including those whose medical exemption makes them particularly vulnerable to the virus.
- Students and staff will continue to sanitise their hands as they enter and leave every classroom.
- Classroom ventilation will be provided through the opening of windows.

Empowering to Excel By Learning Together

Headteacher: Mrs R Drysdale BSc NPQH

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- The one-way system will remain in operation.
- Please can you ensure your child undertakes LFT covid19 tests twice, every week. Ideally these should be undertaken on a Sunday night before a student returns to school and on a Wednesday. If your child tests positive to covid19 using one of the LFT tests, they should not return to school but should undertake a PCR test to confirm their test result.
- Public Health England have asked us to remind all students that use public transport that they must wear a mask or face covering when using these services.

At the moment, we will not be reintroducing 'bubbles', staggered start and end times or playground zoning, although these remain as options that we could introduce if circumstances change. It is important that we work together to try and reduce transmission of the virus. By reducing the spread of the virus, we can ensure that the school remains open and that we do not need to move towards a remote learning offer.

Thank-you all for your help and support in this matter.

Kind regards,

Mrs R Drysdale
Headteacher

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