

Please ask for:

Direct Line:

E-Mail:

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date:

02 February 2022

Dear Parent /Carer

I last wrote to you in December 2021 indicating that all schools in Swansea would be in a very high-risk level from January 2022. I need to tell you that our schools are still operating within the very high-risk level. Schools will use the highest control measures possible until 18 February, at least. Wales is at alert level zero, our schools are not. During January we saw the rate of Covid cases across Swansea schools increase on a week-by-week basis.

Our collective priority continues to be to minimise the disruption to education and ensure, where possible, that learners continue to receive in person learning. Protecting school staff and learners is also a top priority.

The Welsh Government have asked us to make local decisions from 11 February 2022. Decisions made on using less control measures across Swansea schools will be made in conjunction with expert advice from our health board, Public Health Wales, our public health officers and schools. We know that we still need to be cautious in Swansea and I will be speaking to schools about the control measures we use after half-term so that we are all clear on what we need to do.

We once again ask for your support to keep our schools safe and open as much as possible. Many of our schools have been affected by significant staff absence during January and we have had to plan things differently in a few schools just to keep open.

Lateral Flow Tests and Isolation

All staff and secondary aged learners are advised to take a LFT three times a week and report the results, whether it's positive, negative or void [on gov.uk](https://on.gov.uk) or by calling 119. It means new outbreaks are identified and we understand how the tests are being used.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should self-isolate and take a PCR test as soon as possible. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you must self-isolate and follow the guidance.

You should take a lateral flow test (LFT) on day 5 of your self-isolation period and a second lateral flow test the next day (you should aim to take it 12-24 hours after your first test). This will help determine if you are still infectious and potentially pass COVID-19 to others.

You should not take a LFT before day 5 of your self-isolation period because the risk of remaining infectious and therefore passing the infection onto others before this period is significantly higher.

You can leave self-isolation after 5 full days (on day 6 of your self-isolation period). If you test positive you should remain in self-isolation until you can return 2 consecutive negative LFT tests, or until day 10, whichever is sooner.

You do not need a negative LFT test on day 10 to leave self-isolation. If you still have a temperature, you should continue to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal.

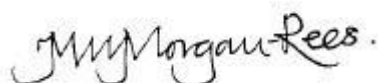
If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and you are a child or fully vaccinated, take a LFT every day unless you cannot conduct an LFT for medical reasons) for 7 days or until 10 days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. Take this daily test before you leave the house for the first time that day. If you are not fully vaccinated, you are legally required to self-isolate as a close contact for 10 full days.

Face Coverings

All staff and secondary-aged learners should continue to use face coverings in communal areas and classrooms where physical distancing cannot be maintained as well as on school transport.

Finally, can I thank you all personally once again for your continual support to our schools during what has been another challenging half-term.

Regards



Helen Morgan-Rees
Director of Education