



Wednesday 16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Mulberry UTC

I am writing to inform you that there have been two further confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school this week, one student case in Year 13 and one staff case.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and following all relevant guidance. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We encourage household members aged 11 and over to continue with twice weekly LFD testing to help identify cases promptly. In accordance with current guidance, students and staff are required to wear face-masks in communal areas unless they are medically exempt.

Updated government guidance

Please find at the bottom of this letter a flowchart setting out updated government guidance in relation to the action which needs to be taken by anyone identified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a confirmed case. This notification will come from NHS Test and Trace, rather than from the school.

If your child is identified as a close contact of a confirmed case, they will be asked to:

1. Do a daily LFT every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the positive person.
 - o Ideally tests should be done in the morning - before school
 - o See information below on where you can pick up LFTs and how to do the test.
2. If the LFT is positive, then isolate and do a PCR test
3. Keep a close watch for symptoms. Anyone who develops any of the main three symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test.
4. If your child tests positive on a PCR, all other household members (excluding children under 5) will need to do daily LFT testing as above even if double vaccinated.



More on LFTs

- Primary school students can:
 - Order home kits via the national portal [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).
 - Collect testing kits from local collection points in Tower Hamlets including local pharmacies: [Rapid Covid-19 test \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](https://towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Secondary school student will continue to collect LFTs from their schools.
- Watch [videos](#) on how to do LFTs
- Remember to [report](#) your LFT result within 24 hours

It is a legal requirement for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, or a positive test result, to self-isolate for 10 days.

The three main symptoms remain:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change in sense of smell or taste

If any other type of symptoms arise, then also arrange a PCR test, but there is no requirement to isolate unless the result is positive.

There are FOUR other steps that you can take to reduce the spread of infection:

1. Limit social contact as much as possible, particularly with any vulnerable people.
2. Encourage mask wearing over the age of 11 in indoor crowded spaces and on transport.
3. Maintain high standards of hand hygiene at all times.
4. Everyone is encouraged to take twice weekly rapid tests at home or at a community test centre.

Follow link: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/testing

It is very important that you continue to inform the school of any positive test results so that we can ensure necessary steps are taken to keep everyone in the school community safe.

For more information on COVID-19 visit: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/covid19 or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your support as we work to keep our school and wider community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent
Principal



Self-isolation and testing requirements w.e.f. Tuesday 14th December 2021

