

17th December 2021

Dear parents/carers

As term closes can I follow up on my recent newsletter with an update regarding Covid over the winter break and on our return to school in January.

The government has introduced a new national approach for contacts of Covid, based on daily testing. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 years to 18 years 6 months who are identified by NHS Test and Trace as a contact of someone with Covid-19, whether Omicron or not, should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for seven days and report the results, instead of self-isolating.

If this takes place just before the start of term, your child should only attend school if the test is negative. If your child tests positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for ten days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate and should return to school. They should carry out the remainder of the daily tests and only self-isolate if one of these tests gives a positive result. **In any of these circumstances please keep us updated in school by contacting office@uhs.org.uk.**

We have been advised that families can obtain lateral flow test kits through community test sites, local pharmacies or online.

We have also been asked to share the following information regarding the availability of vaccination centres over the holiday break.

The vaccination centre in Stockley Park is offering clinics for 12–15 year olds to be vaccinated on the following dates in December:

- Sunday 19th December – 10.15am to 3pm (under-18s only)
- Thursday 23rd December – 10am to 6.30pm (alongside main clinic)
- Wednesday 29th December – 10am to 6.30pm (alongside main clinic)

Parents can book using the [NHS national booking system](#) but walk-ins can be accommodated on the above dates.

Hillingdon hospital has opened a new public Covid-19 vaccination hub, located in Pinewood Ward. They are offering first and second doses to anyone aged 16 or over, as well as boosters for adults over the age of 18. The hub is open between 8.30am and 7.30pm, seven days a week. Walk-in appointments are available or appointments can be made through the [national booking system](#).

When we return to school on 5th January, we have been asked to test all students for whom we have consent. These tests will take place on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th January. Any previous consent given for your child to be tested will remain.

If you have not previously given consent for testing and would now like to do so, please complete the [consent form](#). Equally if you would like to withdraw your consent, please let us know by emailing office@uhs.org.uk.

We also ask that all students take a lateral flow test at home on the evening before they return to school on 5th January.

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We have been advised that the NHS will use the school site again in the spring term to deliver second doses of vaccines. We will confirm later the exact date which is likely to be after February half term.

On our return, students are also reminded that they should bring face coverings to school every day and wear these in communal areas such as corridors, when moving between lessons, in dining queues and assemblies. We also encourage students to carry personal hand sanitiser with them and to regularly sanitise their hands.

If you have not yet seen our winter newsletter, you can access it [here](#). It contains details of the arrangements for our return in January.

Please note that if there are government announcements over the Christmas break that impact on or change our plans for the start of term, we will advise parents on Tuesday 4th January with an email communication and this information will be duplicated on our website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N B Clemens', written over a horizontal line.

N B Clemens
Principal