



MacIntyre Academies
Quest Academy

Monday 29th November 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to let you know that on Sunday we were made aware of four additional COVID 19 cases. Staff and learners who are considered to be close contacts have been contacted and asked to get a PCR test.

I had hoped that our staffing levels this week would have improved, however, there are a number of staff who are currently unable to attend as a result of:

- Needing to look after their child/ children who have tested positive for COVID 19
- Displaying COVID 19 symptoms or have tested positive on the LFT and are waiting for their PCR test results
- Being too unwell to attend school. There is currently a sickness bug which is affecting some learners and staff

Due to the above circumstances it is likely that we will need to continue to use our contingency plan. I am hoping that we do not have to shut the school which is something that is increasingly having to happen across the country and in particular nearby counties.

Following the Government announcement over the weekend you may be aware that the DfE updated their guidance for schools as a result of the **Omicron** variant beginning to spread. We have updated our risk assessments to reflect the changes in the guidance.

It is now advised and encouraged that staff, visitors and where possible secondary age learners to wear masks in communal areas of schools, but not once seated in classrooms. I appreciate that it is difficult for our learners to wear masks consistently, but I would appreciate if you could advise them of the benefits where the opportunity arises, at the very least on transport where there is little room to distance may offer some protection.

The **Omicron** variant appears to have brought major concerns about transmission and as we do not yet know the resilience current vaccines or boosters have for those of us who are vaccinated it is key we need to do our best to keep everyone safe.

If you want more information about Omicron you can find it on the WHO site here [https://www.who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-\(b.1.1.529\)-sars-cov-2-variant-of-concern](https://www.who.int/news/item/26-11-2021-classification-of-omicron-(b.1.1.529)-sars-cov-2-variant-of-concern)

Additionally, if you are a close contact of someone **who tests positive for the Omicron variant you will need to isolate for 10 days regardless of your vaccination status or age until more is known about the risk for the variant by the scientific community.** NHS Test and Trace will inform you if you or your child are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for this the **Omicron** variant.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if your child has a positive LFT please immediately inform us and book a PCR to confirm and check the variant. Please test your child at home twice a week and let us know if you need test kits, you can also get more tests here <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>



Putting children and families first



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Currently there is no current change to guidance about CEV staff or learners being in school, but again if the situation changes we will let you know.

If you have any concerns please contact your child's class teacher. If you child's class teacher and staff team are currently absent please contact members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your on-going support at this very difficult time. Please let us know if we can do anything to support you.

Kind regards,

Nicola Wells



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