



28th November 2021

Dear all in the Roding Valley High School Community,

I am very sorry to email you on a Sunday afternoon but the school has received an important update from the Department for Education. This is in light of the Prime Minister's announcement, of new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK.

Face Coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport unless they are exempt.

DfE Notice to all Schools 28.11.21

Therefore, we will be reintroducing the wearing of face-coverings in all communal areas within the school community. Students will be required to wear a face-covering in all communal areas including assemblies, the study centre, independent study centre, the canteen at break and lunch (when not eating and drinking) and whilst moving in the corridors between lessons. It will be compulsory from Tuesday but I would recommend it from tomorrow.

The requirement for wearing face-coverings does not extend to the classrooms but I would support any student or teacher who wished to do so.

All students who were previously registered exempt should still be recorded in our system but can parents confirm with their Year Progress Leader tomorrow. If your child is exempt but you had not previously notified the school, then please do so urgently. We will be issuing exempt students with cards tomorrow.

Under the new national guidance, it is compulsory to wear face-coverings on public transport (unless exempt).

COVID Mitigations

Windows will continue to be open intermittently throughout the school day. Internal classroom doors are left open at all times to encourage airflow. In light of the now colder temperatures, students are encouraged to wear school jumpers and cardigans underneath their blazers. Hooded jumpers are not allowed. Teaching staff will use their discretion to allow coats and jackets in classrooms but this would only be where there are particularly cold temperatures and not routine.

Testing

All educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage staff and students to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.



It is important that all households continue to test regularly (on a Wednesday and Sunday) and report any positive results using the Test Register. It is important to note that many students who have reported positive results showed little or no symptoms.

I would like to reassure you that presently COVID cases are relatively low within the school but we want to continue to do everything that we can to keep the school open and operating as normally as we possibly can. We all want to continue to do everything within our power to minimise future disruption to your child's education.

We will continue to follow guidance from the DfE and Public Health England and should any further measures need to be re-introduced I will be sure to advise you as soon as possible.

As always, your ongoing support and co-operation with the ever-changing measures is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards



Sharon Jenner
Headteacher