



Unity Education Trust

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29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may have seen in the media over the weekend, the Government are initiating new, temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in the UK.

The expectation from the latest DfE guidance on Sunday 28th November 2021 is that **face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all school settings by staff, visitors, and students in year 7 and above**, unless they are exempt.

We are therefore asking that all of our staff in all of our school settings, whether Primary, Secondary, post 16, Specialist or Complex Needs to wear face coverings with immediate effect in communal areas and where social distancing is not possible.

The DfE have also reiterated that educational and childcare settings should continue to encourage all staff to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests.

In terms of contact tracing, NHS Test and Trace will continue to contact anyone who is a close-contact of a positive case. Whilst the **current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place, in addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age**. Staff would be contacted directly from NHS Test and Trace and told to isolate.

The DfE also encourage **all eligible staff and students aged 12 and over** to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters. Please look to book your vaccine using the NHS page www.nhs.uk/covid

Throughout the last 18 months of Covid-19 your support for our schools has been very much appreciated, and as this new variant becomes understood more clearly by scientists and the Government, we ask for your continued support with all of the required actions in order that together we continue to mitigate against potential risks of outbreaks in our school communities.

Many thanks,

Glyn Hambling CEO