

## **Public Health**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Covid-19 in Bromley schools

National guidance has been published today<sup>1</sup> about the temporary introduction of new measures as a result of the Omicron variant. The new guidance includes a temporary recommendation on the wearing of face coverings in schools. Face coverings are now recommended in communal areas in all schools for adults and for pupils from year 7 upwards. This advice remains subject to change as the situation develops.

An increase in the number of cases is being seen locally within Bromley and nationally. This is reflected in a significant number of outbreaks of Covid-19 in Bromley schools at the moment. Where there is an outbreak the school is supported with specific advice from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the local Public Health team. It is important that parents and the whole school community work together to make sure that advice is followed in each school and the risks of further cases of Covid-19 minimised.

We are grateful to students, parents and carers for your support in this, whilst we recognise the impact this has on students and families.

It is as important as ever that:

- Students and staff stay at home if they have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus and obtain a PCR test
- Students who are 12 or over are recommended to be vaccinated
- Regular handwashing takes place on arrival at school and throughout the school day, including before and after eating
- Good respiratory hygiene is observed ('catch it, bin it, kill it')
- Rooms should be well ventilated where possible
- Staff and students participate in regular testing to identify asymptomatic cases
- Social distancing is observed, and direct face-to-face and unnecessary close contact is avoided, as far as possible

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Schools COVID-19 operational guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u>

The vaccination campaign for children aged 12-15 in Bromley schools providing a first dose has been very successful and is now complete. A second dose for 12-15 year olds has been announced 12 weeks after the first dose. Arrangements for this will be sent out via your school in the New Year.

If any young person missed the school vaccination offer for any reason there is still an opportunity to have the vaccination using either of these links: <a href="mailto:selccg/12-15walkins">selccg/12-15walkins</a> or book via <a href="mailto:nhs.uk/bookmyvaccine">nhs.uk/bookmyvaccine</a>.

Thank you for the steps that you and your family are taking to keep everyone safe.

Yours sincerely

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