



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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2nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 update

You will have seen in the news over recent days that the numbers of positive COVID-19 cases continue to increase both nationally and in the local area. Thankfully it appears that these have not translated into hospital admissions in the same way that they did in January which is a positive sign. It does however mean that there are a significant number of cases affecting the younger, unvaccinated, age groups this has a substantial impact on schools.

So far this week we have received notification of 10 positive test results. 6 of these are from Year 12 and following a risk assessment and advice from Public Health England we made the difficult decision to return to remote learning for this year group. 2 of the 6 Year 12 cases are from students who were identified as contacts. In addition to this we have small numbers of students in Years 7, 9 and 10 who are isolating as a result of isolated cases of positive test results.

Please remember that your child should not attend school if they have one of the three main Covid-19 symptoms

- a temperature
- a persistent cough
- a loss or change in taste or smell

In the event that anyone in the household has one of these symptoms, the whole household should isolate until a negative PCR test result is obtained. (Lateral Flow Tests are only for asymptomatic testing and not used in the event that someone has symptoms).

Please continue to use the lateral flow tests twice a week and to make sure any positive results are reported as soon as possible via text to the school attendance line **07860 034183**.

Each time a positive case is reported we follow current government guidance and undertake a risk assessment with Public Health England to identify possible close contacts. It is frustrating when we are required to ask students to isolate and we know that this is disappointing to students and parents. As with many schools we are experiencing a huge surge in contact tracing which leads to periods of isolation for students and staff. It has been a challenging week with a number of staff also isolating for various reasons and trying to ensure that we meet the needs of all learners whether working remotely or in class.

We are awaiting further information about Government and Local Authority plans for September and hope that these will provide resolutions to the continued disruption. We have been told that lateral flow tests for use at home will not be provided by schools for over the holiday (although you can still order them directly from the .gov.uk website: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or collect them from pharmacies). Schools have also been asked to prepare for possible testing from September but we are yet to receive any information regarding the scale of the testing. It is likely that we will find out the plans for schools at the same time it is announced to everyone by the government but we will of course share any information with parents and carers as soon as we are able.

In the meantime, we thank you for your continued support whilst we navigate to the end of term (hopefully) without further significant disruption.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hurn
Deputy Headteacher