





Padgate Academy

Insall Road, Warrington WA2 0LN

Telephone: 01925 822 632

info@padgateacademy.co.uk

www.padgateacademy.co.uk

  padgateacademy

Principal: Mrs M Barclay BSc (Hons) NPQH

Ref: MBA/SLE/Y10

Wednesday 1 December 2021

Dear parent or carer,

All Year 10 students: Enhanced COVID measures

Coronavirus case numbers remain high in Warrington. We have continued to implement a wide range of COVID safety measures within the Academy, such as enhanced cleaning/sanitising throughout the day, ensuring adequate ventilation, regularly promoting hand/respiratory hygiene, and most recently, re-introducing the requirement for all staff and students to wear a face covering within all communal areas.

We have also continued to encourage all staff and students to take part in regular twice weekly lateral flow testing to help identify any symptom-free cases within the Academy and wider community.

Over the last few days, we are experiencing an increase in the number of confirmed positive cases within our Year 10 cohort. Therefore, we ask for your support to implement additional measures to help keep staff and students as safe as possible.

Enhanced testing for Year 10 students

On advice from Warrington Borough Council's public health team, we are recommending that **ALL Year 10 students** increase the frequency of their lateral flow testing at home to **every day** until the last day of term (Friday 17 December).

We are asking you to do this to reduce further spread of COVID-19 to others, both within the Academy and within the community.

Test kits are available to pick up in person from local pharmacies or the Academy reception and can also be ordered online at gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests.

For information on home testing, how to log your results and more, please visit padgateacademy.co.uk/coronavirus-testing.



Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or (just a temperature alone is a classic symptom)
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Please be mindful that we are getting reports from parents of recent cases that sickness, headaches, and diarrhoea are also related symptoms.

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness, however if your child does develop symptoms, please do not send them into school.

You can seek advice from NHS 111 by visiting [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms) or by calling 111.

What if my child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or has a positive lateral flow test?

- They should self-isolate immediately and remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared, or the day that the lateral flow test was positive. Information regarding self-isolation can be found at [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do)
- You should immediately book a PCR test for your child, which can be done online at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or by calling 119
- If the PCR test comes back as negative, your child's self-isolation can end, and they can return to school
- If the PCR test comes back as positive, you should immediately inform the school. NHS Test and Trace will contact you inform you of the next steps
- Members of your household do not need to self-isolate if:
 - you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
 - you're under 18 years, 6 months old
 - you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- **Please note:** if your child is identified as a close contact of an individual with the new Omicron variant, the household will have to self-isolate. If this is the case, NHS Test and Trace will confirm what you need to do



How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID- 19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

COVID-19 vaccinations

The government has recently announced that students aged 12-15 will become eligible for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, three months after they had their first dose.

Those eligible for the vaccine and booster injections will be invited by their GP practice, or you can book your vaccine appointments online by at nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination

Further information

Further information is available at nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Barclay
Principal