

Guidance for Parents

What do we need from you?

As your child / young person returns to school we ask you to consider the following:

If your child is showing any of the Covid-19 symptoms do not send them into school

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

A full list is published <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> This is regularly updated.

We ask that if you are in doubt about whether symptoms are potentially Covid-19, you assume that it is Covid 19 until the symptomatic person receives a negative test from a PCR test centre.

- If anyone in your household is displaying signs of Covid-19 your child should isolate for 10 days from the day after the symptoms first started. If your child/young person displays symptoms, you should have them tested. We realise this may not be appropriate for all of our students. If your child tests positive please contact the school urgently.
- Please limit personal items into school with your child. This includes soft toys, iPads, mobile phones or other. This reduces the risk of sharing devices and transmission of Covid-19. Exception: Please send your child in to school with their own water bottle.
- We ask that students do not wear PPE in school. Advice from Public Health England is that the removal and general reapplying of masks can increase the risk of transmission. Similarly, regular washing of hands is a more effective barrier to transmission than wearing gloves. We will support your child to understand this. Some students will be included in discussions and make their own choices about wearing masks in school. We will support their decisions.
- At this time, we are limiting external visitors into school. That includes parents. If you need to visit a member of school staff, please call and make arrangements.
- Please maintain social distancing if you are dropping off or collecting your child from school. We would also request that you wear a face covering if you are dropping off or collecting. We all play a part in avoiding further lockdowns and keeping schools open.

How will we be reducing risk for your child while they are in school?

Staff at Uffculme School were offered vaccination for Covid 19 in February 2021. The take up has been high. Staff are also completing Lateral Flow Tests twice per week.

- We recognise that some of our students will find it difficult to maintain social distancing. This will be managed on an individual basis in school. If you or your child have concerns about others in school, please contact us to discuss.

Dropping off and collecting

At Woodlands: Areas will be marked in the drop off spaces to maintain social distancing. We ask that you enter the school through the main gate and queue alongside the driveway. Please stick to your allocated times.

At Chamberlain: Please park on the main road and bring your child/young person to the school. Please queue to the left of the main reception and maintain social distancing.

At Russell Road: you will be given a time to drop your young person off and when to pick them up. Please stick to these times and do not over crowd the carpark area.

- If you are waiting outside the school for your child, please be mindful of social distancing protocols. We also request that you wear a facial covering.
- As we move through the term, we may need to alter drop off and pick up times to support social distancing.

Lateral Flow Test

- From 8th March, students at Chamberlain and Russell Road will be asked to complete Lateral Flow Tests twice a week. This is dependent on consent and on an individual basis, ie each child/young person's ability to take/tolerate the tests.
- As the tests will be completed at home, parents will be able to support their child appropriately. If you do not feel your child is able to take the test, please inform the school.
- We are aware that the tests are uncomfortable and may cause distress for your child/young person. Please do not feel under pressure to complete the test if this is the case.
- If your child/young person completes a Lateral flow test and this is positive, contact the school immediately. Do not send your child into school. Please follow this up by booking a PCR test.
- Please email your Lateral Flow Test results to covid@uffculme.bham.sch.uk

Classrooms

- Guidance for schools has been updated to enable all pupils to return from 8 March. Bubbles are now defined as whole class bubbles. This includes all pupils and staff that normally work in the room.
- Staff will be cautious about entering classes that they are not part of unless it is empty. If it is a necessity, please ensure they will maintain social distancing during their time in the room.
- Where a member of staff teaches across classes, they will maintain social distancing as they work. These staff will also have a heightened awareness of handwashing and sanitising.
- Consideration is being given to the layout of classrooms. Face to face working will be avoided. Instead staff will sit side by side or at an angle to the pupil they are supporting.
- Where possible, we have one-way systems in place to enable movement around the sites.
- Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to reduce class bubbles need to share spaces.
- Hand hygiene is a key aspect of life in school now. There are sanitiser stations around school which pupils will be encouraged to use (where appropriate).

What will happen if a child or adult exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

All staff, parents and carers will be asked to adhere to the school's guidelines and be extra vigilant of symptoms as new variants are found. Our response to symptoms is not dependent on Lateral Flow Test results, but lateral flow test may reduce the time the bubble is closed.

If anyone within a bubble displays symptoms:

- Contact the school immediately. If symptoms begin at school, parents/carers will be asked to collect immediately.
- Register for a test. We recommend attending a test centre rather than postal tests.
- Everyone in the bubble will be asked to isolate at home until results have been returned from the symptomatic person.
- School staff will utilise our own 'Test and Trace' procedures which will include anyone that has been within a 2 metre distance of the person who is symptomatic, this includes school transport.
- If the result of the symptomatic test is positive, the school will contact Public Health for further advice. If the test is negative, all members of the bubble will be able to return to school.