

14 December 2021

Dear Parents and carers of year 8 students,

Advice for testing

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA, formerly Public Health England) has been working with the school because a member of the school community has tested positive for COVID-19.

The student is in year 8, and it is a suspected/confirmed Omicron case. This is our second Omicron case and is alongside 3 other cases in the year group who were close contacts. These additional 3 cases are not yet confirmed to be the Omicron variant.

As a precautionary measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community, UKHSA have recommended that **all year 8 students use LFD tests for 7 days and if positive then they should isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test** at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If you have problems or cannot use the online service, call 119. Lines are open 7am - 11pm.

Your son/daughter has been sent home with a new pack of LFD tests. Please ensure that they use these daily, ideally first thing in the morning, before coming to school.

If you run out, they can be ordered online: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or collected from your local pharmacy or test centre. You can find out where to get LFD tests at: [Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/trace).

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 then please follow the self-isolation advice from NHS Test and Trace and inform us immediately at covid.reporting@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Other measures

UKHSA have also advised that year 8 students have limited contact with others in the school. Therefore, please encourage your child to limit the time they spend with students from other year groups at break and lunch.

As the canteen is a shared space, year 8 will continue to have their sitting after year 9 students at lunchtime. However, at break time it will not be possible for year 8 and 9 to be served together. Therefore, please can you ensure your child has a snack for break time for the rest of the week, as it will not be possible to serve them.



Our existing measures of masks indoors, ventilation and hand sanitising continue to be in place. Please remind your child to follow these expectations carefully in school.

We have been advised not to send the year group home. However, if we are in a situation where we have high staff absence and are not able to cover lessons, year 8 would be first to learn remotely from home.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19): [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread:](#)

- Get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over is eligible for vaccination – see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> for more information.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- Open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Many thanks for your continued support in helping to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely



Will Speke
Head of School



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